



Trinity United Methodist Church



*The Merode Altarpiece, Robert Campin
Oil on Wood, Dutch, c.1432*

Joseph

*son of David
do not be afraid*

*to take Mary home
as your wife*

Matthew 1:20b

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December 21, 2025

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.



Welcome to Trinity Church! We are grateful you are here. We'd appreciate it if you would complete an attendance card found in the pew rack (or scan the QR code on page 8 with your phone's camera and click the link) to register your attendance today - and do include each family member present.

Prelude

Pastorale on FOREST GREEN (Purvis)

Jerry Rich

Welcome

* Call to Worship

from Micah 5

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephratha,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth one who is to rule Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient of days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to Israel.

**And he shall stand and feed his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of his name.**

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
until the ends of the earth;

and he shall be the one of peace!

* Gathering Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

bulletin p. 3

Prayer of Confession and Pardon

Taehwan Roh

God of Incarnate Wonder,
We can scarcely conceive that your Son was conceived
and born among us, more humbly than most,
to offer his life for the sake of our reconciliation with you.

**We would not speak the truth if we said that humility
and self-giving sacrifice come easily to us.**

**We are quick to exploit the freedom you have given us,
eager to enjoy comforts and pleasures of this world,
and slow to make room in our hearts**

for the one whom Mary and Joseph bravely welcomed.

Perhaps it is the beginning of wisdom

to ask for your mercy,

for we are not ready for Jesus' arrival just yet.

**We are unprepared to submit to your way of love,
and bravely welcome the call to love others as ourselves.**

But we want to be so.

We ask for your help, that he might be born to us again.

(for a moment we confess our need for grace)

Thank you that your mission is salvation for all people,
and wonder is still at work in your world. (Our world.)

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Light the Advent Candle (vs 4)

Light the Advent candle four; think of joy forever more;
Christ child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Children's Presentation (10:30)

Away in a Manger

Charlie White (narrator); Miso Hager, Jack Whittington (instrumental)

(Continued on page 2)

Our prayer will conclude with:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering

*Our offering is received as we pass the plates, but you may also give online at
<http://umtrinity.org/give> or through our app.*

Offertory

*Adam Lay Ybounden (Warlock) Brendon O'Donnell (8:30)
Glory to God (Handel) Chancel Choir with Nadine Wethington (10:30)*

Reading from the Scriptures

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Word of God, for us, the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Invitation to a Scandal

Dave Rochford

Communion (8:30)

- * Closing Hymn *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* p. 3
 - * Benediction
 - * Postlude *Allegro in A Minor* (Kuhnau) Jerry Rich
- * Please stand as you are able.

Our Prayer List

Aaron, Adamson family, Anne, Annie Ruth, Arla, Arnold family, Leth, Barb, Ben, Beth, Bill, Brett, Bud, Casey, Cathey, Chris, Christie, Clara, Claudia, Corbin, Corte family, Crista, Dale, Dane, Daniel, Dara, Darlene, Dave, Davey, David, DeMicco family, Doug, Douglas, Dudley & Susan, Earley family, Emmett, Evan, Faga family, Frances, Frank, Gail, Gloria, Grace, Gray family, Gregg, Hager family, Heather & Paul, Jack, Jason, Jewel, Jimmy, Joan, Joe, Joel, John, Karen, Kate & Leo, Kathy, Kizner family, Kristen, Lenore, Linda, Luke, Margaret, Margie, Marie, Mary, Mary Frances, Matt, Meri, Michael, Nancy, Peggy, Ples, Rasmussen family, Richard, Roh family, Rubina, Russ, Sally, Sam & Alex, Sheila, Staley family, Steve, Sue, Tina, Vanna, Vasser family, Vicki, Willis & Carter, Winie & Joseph, Wade, Wyatt, Yancey, and peace in the Middle East and efforts of those seeking peace, our nation's leadership and unity, people experiencing natural disasters, those without housing, those traveling, those who are hungry, hostage survivors, those in Australia and Brown University affected by gun violence, students taking exams, families gathering for the holidays.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 216

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in
 3. O Flower, whose frag-rance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the

sprung! Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing, as those of old have
 mind; with Ma-ry we be - hold it, the Vir-gin Moth - er
 air, dis - pel in glo-rious splen-dor the dark-ness ev - ery -

sung. It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 where. True man yet ver - y God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

WORDS: Sts. 1-2, 15th cent. German; trans. by Theodore Baker, 1894; st. 3 from
The Hymnal, 1940 (ls. 35:1-2)
 MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609

It Came upon the Midnight Clear 218

1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are hasten-ing on, by proph-et seen of old,

from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heav-en-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told

"Peace on the earth, good will to men,* from heaven's all-gra-cious King."
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hover-ing wings,
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

*"all" may be substituted

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14)
 MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850



Poinsettias

Given by . . .

In Memory / In Honor of . . .

John David

Ray & Dorothy Jane David

The Grunenfelders

Terry Whitesel

Connie Jeremiah

David E. Jeremiah
Thomas D. Beem

Jim and Cindy Wilson

The Mendez and Wilson Families
Friends Far and Near
Those Serving Our Country

Anne Eichberger-Keating

Clara Moon

Peter & Michelle Thompson

James H. Jones, II
Marilyn M. Jones
Arthur & Carolyn Thompson
Elizabeth & Ashley Thompson

Roh Family

To the glory of God

Jeff and Sophie Pugh and Ling Chen

Aiwu Tu & Lianggen Chen
Bill & Carolyn Mills
Louise & Cliff Birchfield

David Chappell

Jesus
my mom and dad

Grace Chappell

Helen Trantham

Sharon Todd

Jim Todd

Ryan, Marci, Dylan and Lachlan Thomas

Fred and Mary Jane Love
Sandy and Larry Hines
Alex Lamme
Lainie Grace Border

Van Todd & family

Pat and Bill Todd
Shelley and Deanna Rundell

Mary, Robert and Jack Newcomb

Ginger Laughlin

Pamela and David Danner

Ray and Lorna Beck
George and Hazel Danner

Gay Rogers

My family

Shirley Zhang and William Liu

Our good neighbors

Lizzy Conroy

Kathy Walker and Marlene Conroy

Sasha Impastato

Eddie and Stella Impastato

The Sullivan Family

Harry Sumner
Jon Sullivan

Grow — Pray — Study

Our weekly devotional is available at <https://bit.ly/TrinityGPS>



Monday, December 22 — Genesis 12:1–9

God's call to Abram begins with disruption. Familiar land, security, and future plans are left behind without detailed explanations. God does not offer a clear roadmap, only a promise to be present and to bring blessing to many through obedience. This passage reminds us that faith often begins where certainty ends.

Abram's journey teaches us that God's purposes unfold not after our plans succeed, but often when our plans are interrupted. Trust grows not from knowing outcomes, but from walking forward with God, step by step.

- Where might God be inviting you to release control of your plans?
- What would it mean to trust God without seeing the full picture?
- **Prayer:** God who calls us forward, help me loosen my grip on certainty. Give me courage to walk with you when the way ahead feels unclear. Amen.

Tuesday, December 23 — Psalm 37:1–11

This psalm speaks to those who feel unsettled when life does not unfold as expected. Rather than urging quick fixes or withdrawal, it invites patience, trust, and a steady turning toward God. "Commit your way to the Lord" is not passive resignation, but active reliance.

In a world that values immediate resolution, this passage reminds us that faithfulness often looks quiet and unremarkable. God's justice and care are not absent, even when they unfold slowly.

- Where do you feel tempted to give up waiting and trust God's timing?
- Where is it hardest for you to remain faithful when God's work feels slow and quiet?
- **Prayer:** Faithful God, teach me to rest in your care. When I feel impatient or overwhelmed, help me commit my way to you. Amen.

Wednesday, December 24 — Isaiah 42:1–9

Isaiah describes God's servant not as forceful or loud, but as gentle and attentive. God's work of renewal does not crush the weak or abandon what is fragile. Instead, God brings justice with patience and care.

This vision challenges our assumptions about strength. God's saving work often unfolds through quiet faithfulness rather than dramatic gestures. In moments when life feels disrupted or fragile, God remains steadily at work.

- Where do you notice gentleness being born in your life, shaping your understanding of God's presence?
- How might God be working through quiet faithfulness in your life?
- **Prayer:** God of steadfast love, help me trust your gentle ways. Shape my heart to reflect your patience and care for others. Amen.

Thursday, December 25 — Luke 2:8–20

The first announcement of Christ's birth came not to those in positions of influence, but to shepherds keeping watch at night. God chooses interruption over convenience, surprise over predictability. The shepherds do not remain distant observers—they go, they see, and they respond by shaping the Good News.

This story reminds us that God's invitation often comes amid ordinary responsibilities. When we choose to respond rather than withdraw, we discover that joy grows through participation in God's work.

- What interruptions to your plans might God be using to draw you closer this season?
- How can you respond with openness rather than hesitation?
- **Prayer:** God who meets us in ordinary places, open my heart to your unexpected invitation. Lead me toward joy through faithful response. Amen.

Friday, December 26 — Ruth 1:16–18

Ruth's words to Naomi reveal a deep commitment that defies practicality. Faced with loss and uncertainty, Ruth chooses relationship over self-protection. Her decision is costly, yet it becomes a channel of blessing far beyond what she could imagine.

This passage reminds us that love often requires choosing to be present when walking away would be easier. God's redemptive work frequently unfolds through such quiet, faithful commitments.

- Where might God be calling you to remain present rather than withdraw?
- What fears surface when commitment feels costly?
- **Prayer:** God of steadfast love, give me courage to choose faithfulness. Help me remain steadfast even when the path feels uncertain. Amen.

Saturday, December 27 — Colossians 1:15–20

Paul proclaims Christ as the one through whom all things are held together. This vision widens our perspective beyond personal plans or disruptions, reminding us that every life is connected within God's redeeming purpose.

When Christ is born among us, nothing remains untouched. God's reconciling work draws us into relationship with others, inviting us to care beyond our own boundaries. Faith becomes not an escape from the world, but a deeper commitment to it.

- How does this passage reshape the way you view your life's disruptions?
- In what ways might Christ be inviting you to embrace others more fully?
- **Prayer:** God of reconciliation, help me see the world through your redemptive love. Teach me to live with open hands and an open heart. Amen.

Today at Trinity

Photo Backdrop Available

There will be a Christmas-themed photo backdrop in our Fellowship Lobby today available for you to take photos with your own camera/phone. Thanks to our Preschool for sharing their fun with us!

Chancel Choir, 10 a.m.

The Chancel Choir meets each Sunday at 10 a.m. to prepare to lead worship at 10:30 a.m. New singers are always welcome. If you'd like to know more about Trinity's music ministry, please contact Jerry Rich, jrich@potomacschool.org.

Children's Worship, 10:30 a.m. (ages 4 - 6th grade) takes place following the Children's Message in our Fellowship Building across the Breezeway.

Service of Hope & Light, 5 p.m.

A meditative time of worship and healing for those dealing with loneliness or grief during the holidays.



This Week

Wednesday, 9 a.m.: Prayer Group

A dedicated community that meets via Zoom to lift up the needs of our church family, community and world. If you'd like to know more or to participate, please speak to one of our pastors or call the office, 703-356-3312.

Wednesday, December 24
5 p.m. Family Service
8 p.m. Candlelight & Communion



Thursday & Friday: Office Closed

Coming Up

January 4: Martha's Table Snack Packaging

Following both worship services, we will gather in the Fellowship Lobby to make bags of trail mix for weekday distribution by Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. The snack bag assembly line is fun and also makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in our community. All supplies provided!

January 13: Book Chat

Book Chat will meet on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Trouble the Water* with special guest and author of the book Rebecca Dwight Bruff.

January 17: Christ House Meal Mission

Christ House is a place of healing; a residential, medical facility for homeless men located on Columbia Road in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, DC. We prepare lunch on the third Saturday of every month. Contact Connie Jeremiah for more information, 703-307-4635 or dcjeremiah@verizon.net.

Feb. 19 - 25, 2026: Honduras Mission Trip

Join us as we travel to rural Honduras to serve at The Leadership Center (leadershipmission.org). We will stay and serve alongside 60 young women, attend their classes, work on the organic farm, mentor and just love on these remarkable young leaders. Please reach out to Chris (571-215-2948) or Dan (danmoore53@gmail.com, 703-980-5050) Moore for more information.



Ushers Needed for Christmas Eve

Not to worry if you've never greeted and ushered before. It's easy! We ask you arrive 10 minutes before the Sunday morning service starts or 20 minutes before Christmas Eve service starts, greet people and hand out bulletins, complete the count sheet, and then assist with the offering by making sure the plates are passed from aisle to aisle. We will need two people to usher each Sunday and six for each Christmas Eve service, but that shouldn't stop anyone from signing up. We can always find an extra person if needed!

Please scan the QR code on page 6 to review the available slots on the sign up. Thank you!

About Our Ministries

Nursery

The **Nursery** is staffed during both our Sunday worship services for children 3 years old and under. Our nursery is located in the Fellowship Building; simply speak to an usher and they will provide assistance.

Children's Worship Folders

Folders are available during worship services and are categorized by age and reading ability. Please return your folder to the used bin so it can be replenished.

Fellowship: Getting Connected

You are cordially invited to meet friends and neighbors after each of our worship services. Join us in the Fellowship Lobby to the right of the breezeway. Each week individuals, families or ministry groups host our refreshments. Please consider signing up for either the 8:30 or 10:30 service's Fellowship time. Scan the QR code under Quick Links at the right to sign-up.

Trinity Preschool of McLean

TPoM welcomes all students ages 2-6. Please visit umtrinity.org/preschool to learn more about this vibrant ministry or to schedule a tour for your child.

Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed each Sunday to greet people, answer questions and hand out bulletins. Use the QR code below to volunteer for this essential ministry of hospitality, or speak to one of the pastors.

Winter Weather and Worship!

Some of us delight in snow, and some of us would welcome a *mild* winter! But what happens with church events, including worship, in the event of snow and ice?

In the simplest terms, Trinity Church will never 'close' for Sunday morning worship owing to weather. But if conditions appear dangerous, we may opt to offer worship *online only*. (Of course, we livestream our services *every* Sunday and thus have that digital architecture.)

In the event of a late-breaking snow system, we will communicate our weather-related plans via email, Facebook, our website and the church voicemail system.

We note that if Fairfax County Public Schools are closed, our Preschool will always follow their schedule. Church events may also be cancelled on weekdays, and if/when that should happen our staff will communicate via email and website updates. We may divert events to Zoom in such a circumstance, and if so will provide the needed link via email.



Quick Links

Scan QR code with your phone's camera & click the link.

- > Worship attendance
- > Children & Youth registration
- > Book Chat discussion group
- > Christ House wish list
- > Fellowship Hour hosts
- > Ushers



Trinity Church Staff

Dave Rochford
Taehwan Roh
Harriet Latta
Jose Nuñez
Jerry Rich
Angi Oxendine
Catherine Wethington
Laurie Strollo

Lead Pastor
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Director of Music
Preschool Director
Director of Youth Ministry
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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Worship is in-person and livestreamed on Sundays from our Chapel at 8:30 a.m. and from our Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on YouTube: youtube.com/UMTrinity. Our 5 p.m. Celtic Service is in-person and streamed on the last Sunday of the month. If you're not yet receiving our Friday weekly events e-mail, please send us your address at info@umtrinity.org