



Trinity United Methodist Church

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101

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December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

We ask that everyone complete an attendance card found in the pew rack or scan the QR code on page 12 with your phone's camera and click the link to register your attendance today. Don't forget to include **each** family member present.

Prelude	<i>Adagio in F</i> , HWV 370 (Handel)	Jerry Rich
Welcome and Announcements		Clergy
* Call to Worship		Taehwan Roh
Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us! Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most gracious gift, God's Son, Jesus Christ. Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming! May God's light shine on us, in us and through us that God's glory may be seen. Amen.		
* Gathering Hymn	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	UMH 230
Lighting of the Advent Candle	<i>Light the Advent Candle</i> (vs 4)	Roh family FWS 2090
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 Message		Laurie Strollo
Prayers of the People		Taehwan Roh
Offering		Neil Hough
This morning's offering will be received as we pass the offering plates. You may also give online at http://umtrinity.org/give and through our app. On the website, scroll down and click on SET UP ONLINE GIVING.		
Offertory	<i>A Spotless Rose</i> (McGrath)	Chancel Choir
Scripture	Matthew 1:18-25	Taehwan Roh
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 fulfil 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.		
Message	<i>Great Expectations</i>	Neil Hough
* Closing Hymn	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	UMH 238 Click on Full Text
* Benediction		Neil Hough
* Closing Music	<i>Bourée</i> from <i>Suite 3</i> (Bach)	Jerry Rich
* Please stand as you are able.		

Grow — Pray — Study

Things I'd like to remember from today's message:

Monday, December 25 — Luke 2:1-7

Merry Christmas! As you celebrate today, take some time to remember the first Christmas and why we are still celebrating the birth of a baby, born to two anonymous Israelites more than 2,000 years ago. Think about what the story of Christmas says about God and the way God works. Remember that God is still at work in the world, and in our lives, and that God still acts in miraculous and unexpected ways.

- In what ways have you experienced the miracle of Christmas this year? Be open to the possibility that God is doing something amazing in your life right now.
- Prayer: *God of Miracles, thank you for Christmas. Thank you for sending your Son into the world. Help me experience the miracle of Christmas once again. Amen.*

Tuesday, December 26 — Luke 2:8-20

Luke tells us that shepherds, working the night shift, were the first people to hear the good news of Jesus' birth. Historians tell us that shepherds were close to the bottom of the social hierarchy of the first century. This is a powerful reminder that God's gift of Jesus is not just for the wealthy or socially important. Jesus has come for everyone, especially those who are forgotten by the world and who live on the margins of society.

- As a response to the gift of Jesus at Christmas, ask God to guide you to the people (on the margins) who need to hear some good news.
- Prayer: *God of Grace, forgive me for missing your message that your salvation is for everyone. Forgive me for keeping Jesus to myself. Help me share the good news. Amen.*

Wednesday, December 27 — Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's version of the nativity story focuses on Joseph, and then the Magi. Luke's account focuses on Mary, and then the shepherds. These are familiar stories, and we often miss the impact of them and forget the deeper meaning. Today's reading has much to teach us, but the primary message is that Mary's baby is God's baby and that "he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

- What does salvation mean to you? How does Jesus save you from your sins?
- Prayer: *God of Salvation, sometimes I struggle to understand what the birth of Jesus really means. I need to learn to trust you and trust in your promise of salvation. Amen.*

Thursday, December 28 — Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

We read these beautiful words from the prophet Isaiah at Christmas every year. As Christians, we read these words through the lens of Christmas, believing that Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of the prophetic promises. In other words, when we find ourselves lost in darkness (which we experience in many ways), there is hope because God loves us, and because God sent Jesus to save us by being the light of the world (see John 8:12). We need light for life. We need the light of Jesus for Life.

- In what ways has the light of Christ illumined your life this week?
- Prayer: *God of Grace and Peace, grant me the courage I need to keep the Christmas Spirit alive and let your light guide my path today and in the days ahead. Amen.*

Friday, December 29 — John 1:1-18

Although John's Gospel does not tell us about the circumstances of Jesus' birth, it does tell us what it means. The language is poetic and powerful. If we read closely, we discover that John tells us everything we need to know. Jesus is the Word of God in the flesh. In Jesus, we meet God, and in Jesus, God shines much-needed light into the darkness of the world and into the darkest corners of our lives. In the world today, it might seem like the darkness is winning. But at Christmas, we discover that when Jesus comes, *a new day is dawning*. In the world. In our lives.

- In what ways have you experienced darkness in the past year? What can you do today and in the days and weeks ahead to allow the light of Christ to shine in your life?
- Prayer: *God of Light, in the darkness, I wonder if there is any hope. At Christmas, I discover that a light is shining. Let your light shine more brightly in my life today. Amen.*

Saturday, December 30 — Romans 1:1-7

Sometimes we might wonder what kind of difference Christmas really makes. We might wonder how Jesus' life and ministry (and death and resurrection) changes anything. We might be tempted to simply make Jesus a good-luck talisman, that we wear around our neck to make us feel special. But when we read the New Testament, we discover that God has a plan — and that plan is to save us by the life-changing power of grace, which is made possible by God's sacrificial love for God's creation.

- As you prepare to begin a new year, spend some time prayerfully considering what difference Jesus makes in your life. How will you respond to the life-changing power of God's sacrificial love and grace given to you through Jesus?
- Prayer: *God of Love, thank you for Christmas, for the annual reminder that you love us so much that you sent your Son to be our Savior. Help me follow him always. Amen.*

Poinsettias

Given by
Jeanette Benson
Sam, Alison and Peter Bricker

The Case Family

The Coston Family
The Conroy Family

John David
Pamela and David Danner
The Detwiler Family
Linda Drumheller
Becky Fulton
Brian and Stephanie Grunenfelder
The Hamilton Family
Jennifer, Matt, Vivi and Harper
The Hill Family
Ann and Cornell Hooton
Kip and Elaine Howlett
Sasha Impastato
Connie Jeremiah

The Jue Family
Bruce & Alesha Luxon
Kathy and Matt Maher

The McKean Family
Helen and Glenn Miller

Vicki Paisley
The Prewett Family
Taehwan Roh
Gay Rogers
Robin & Lisa Russell

Laurie Strollo
The Sullivan Family

The Swenson Family
Sharon Todd
Van Todd & Family

Allison and Charlie White

Jim and Cindy Wilson

In Honor / In Memory of
Bruce F Benson
Harry and Dorothy Bricker
Hak Keun and Sook Rye Oh
Eun Kyoung Chung and Chang Bong Shin
Jack and Evelyn Burk
Leonard, Dolores, and Jeanette Bricker
Roy & Josephine Case
Howard & Nancy Leong
Loved ones
Jim and Marlene Conroy
Rosemary Scalpone
Barth and Lucile Walker
Ray & Dorothy Jane David
our parents, Ray and Lorna Beck and George and Hazel Danner
Kathryn Detwiler
Tyler S Drumheller
Edna Brown
Grace and Leo Grunenfelder
Evelyn, Kyle, George & Addie
John & Peggy Sadler
Judy and Jerry Hill
Cassie, Roy, Erma, Donald, Nate and Trent
Lois Howlett
Edward and Stella Impastato
David Jeremiah
Thomas Beem

Our Family
Jim Maher
George and Dorothy Boyer
All of our relatives passed over the years
Ruth E. Bowman
Pasco Bowman, Peggy Miller, and Steve Miller
Melvyn, Lee and Janet
Kaye and Craig Cairney
Jesus Christ
Woody Rogers
Daniel Russell
Mary Lee Russell
Roderick Bergstrom
Jackie Strollo Boone
Harry Sumner
Jon Sullivan
Nancy Ashbaugh
Jim Todd
Pat and Bill Todd
Shelley and Deanna Rundell
Laurie Strollo
our grandparents
The Mendez Family
The Wilson Family
The Buck Clan
Friends Near and Far

Heart to Heart Tree: Sponsor a Child

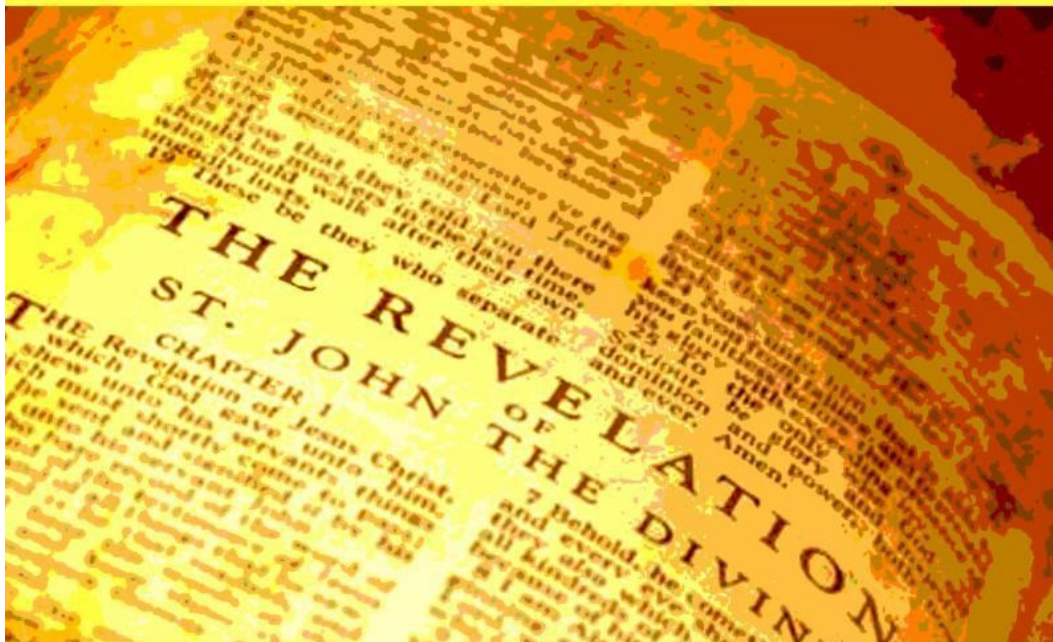


A tree in the Narthex is adorned with bell ornaments, each featuring the biography of a child living at Heart to Heart Children's Village in Honduras. Please consider taking an ornament to sponsor a child through prayers, letters, and gifts. Each bell can be untied to reveal the child's photo and biography. This opportunity is available throughout the Advent season.

Sponsor Activities

- Pray for child/youth during the season of Advent.
- Write a letter to the child. (Tell them a little about you and your family. Ask them to write back about themselves.) A collection box will be available at church.
- Provide financial support, allowing for a small gift for the child and supporting H2H ministry in 2024

THE RETURN OF THE KING



New Sermon Series Coming January 7!

Revelation: few books of the Bible create more interest, inspire more curiosity, and invoke more fear than this book. But what is the meaning of Revelation? How are we to read it? And how does its message speak to us today? Join us as we start the New Year together and explore these questions and more in Pastor Neil's new series: ***The Return of the King***.

Nursery on Sundays

The Nursery is staffed during both Sunday worship services for children 3 years old and under.

This Week on Zoom

Password 1205

Prayer Group

Wednesday at 9 a.m. Meeting ID: 875 6105 5580



Confirmation class for 7th graders, and older youth who have not taken the class, will begin with a kick-off for youth, parents and faith friends on **Sunday, January 7, 2024**, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Pastor Anne Hough will once again be the lead teacher, and the class will meet most Sundays from 4 - 5 p.m. and will run through mid-May. Confirmation Sunday will be Pentecost Sunday, May 19. To register, please visit the youth webpage: umtrinity.org/education/youth. Registration is needed now



Advent and Christmas at Trinity - A New Day is Dawning

Advent is a season for anticipation and Christmas is a season for celebration. As we anticipate and celebrate Jesus' birth, we also anticipate and celebrate Jesus coming into our lives. Even on the most difficult days and in the darkest of seasons, this is Good News: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* (John 1:5) Join us for worship every week as we discover that, with the coming of Jesus, **A New Day is Dawning**.



Our Prayer List

Adam, Alan, Alice, Amanda & David, Amber & Brianna, Andrea, Andrew, Anne, Annie Ruth, Arnold, Audrey, Barry & Diane, Betty, Bill & Maddie, Brett, Brian, Bruce, Bud, Carol & Rich, Carolina, Caroline, Carrie, Cathy, Chris, Christopher, Claudia, Daniel, Danny, Dara, Dave & Gail, Davey, David & Carol, Darlene & Steve, Desarae, Di Letti family, Donnie, Doris, Doris & Joe, Dudley & Susan, Easley family, Ed, Elaine, Eileen, Ellie, Emmett, Erica & Roberto, Erik, Evans family, Fran & Tom, Gabe, Gary & Lindie, Glenda, Geoff, Gray, Greg, Gregg, Hammer family, Harriet, Harris family, Harry, Hefferon family, Henry, Holmes family, Hong family, Jack, Jackie, Jan, Janice, Jason, Jean, Jeanette, Jeanne, Jeff, Jenna, Jenny & Michael, Jessica, Jimmy, Joan, Joe & Marie, John, Jomer, Josie, Judi, Judy, June, Karen, Kathy, Kay & John, Krista, Kobi, Lajoie family, Landaverde family, Laura, Lejoy family, Leslie, Linda, Lindstedt family, Lisa, Liz & David, Lon, London family, Lori, Luana, Lynne, Mack, Macy, Marcia, Marciene, Marilyn, Mark, Mary, Matt, Matthias, Michael, Michelle, Mickey & Ruth, Mike, Moore family, Nancy, Nell, Nina, Niro, Norma, Norman, Olivia, Pat, Patty, Paul, Pauline & Merlin, Pearl family, Peg & Dick, Peter, Peter & Laura, Prissilla, Rebecca, Sabbagh family, Sally, Sandra, Scott, Sheila, Spencer, Skyard family, Stephanie, Stephen, Steve, Sue, Susan, Teresa, Tim, Tom, Tony, Vanna, Vinnie, Wayne, Williams family, and Yancey, travelers, those who mourn, Longfellow Middle School community, the homeless, racial reconciliation in our country, those affected by the opioid epidemic and those working to end it, victims of famine and war, peace and more empathy in the world, protection from gun violence in the world and for its victims and families, those living in war zones, hostages, those living with cancer.

Highlights from E-News

If you're not receiving our Friday e-mail, please send your email address to info@umtrinity.org

Book Chat

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, **January 9** at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. New readers are always welcome. The book list is at <http://umtrinity.org/education/adults> or contact Kathy Maher, kathyngs@gmail.com.

Children's Ministries

Children's Worship 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.



Children's Worship (ages 4 - 4th grade) and **Club 56** (grades 5 & 6) meet during the 10:30 service following the Children's Message.

Fellowship

Sign up on the white board on the coffee bar to provide snacks during Fellowship following worship services. Contact Alesha Luxon, alesha.luxon@gmail.com.

Martha's Table

Martha's Table is held the first Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall following both 8:30 & 10:30 services. All are welcome to join this fellowship/volunteer opportunity. We package trail mix at Trinity and then deliver it to Martha's Table ministry, which serves unhoused people in Washington, DC.

We are so appreciative of those who gather to fill the trail mix bags but are also looking for volunteers interested in working with our coordinators to

deliver the packed trail mix to the Martha's Table location. If you are interested in serving as a delivery driver, please sign up online (<http://umtrinity.org/marthat>), on the Fellowship Hall sign-up sheet, or contact William Liu at williamliu@att.net /703-389-2253.

Mission Trip: March 2024

Exciting news! Join our team on a trip to The Leadership Center in rural Honduras from March 2 to March 7, 2024, supporting 55 young women in education and spirituality. You'll join Chris and Dan Moore, who will be serving there for three weeks. For details, contact Chris Moore (christinecmoore@gmail.com, 571-215-2948) or Dan Moore (703-980-5050, danmoore53@gmail.com).

Preschool Enrollment Open

Enrollment for 2024-25 opens to church members and existing preschool families on Jan. 2. For details, please visit umtrinity.org/preschool.

Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed each Sunday. If you would like to volunteer please sign up at umtrinity.org/ushers.

Youth Group (Grades 7-12) Youth Group resumes January 7.

Contact Catherine Wethington, umtrinityyouth@gmail.com. Scan the QR code at the right to register for 2023-24 youth activities.



Coming Up

December

24 No 8:30 a.m. worship
24 Christmas Eve: 5, 8, 11 p.m.
25 Office Closed
26 Office Closed

January

1 Office Closed
5 *Spire* deadline
7 Martha's Table
7 Confirmation Kick-off
8 Crafts for a Cause
9 Book Chat
15 Office Closed
16 *Spire* assembly
20 Christ House
22 Crafts for a Cause

February

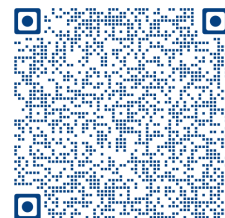
4 Martha's Table
5 Crafts for a Cause
13 Book Chat
14 Ash Wednesday
17 Christ House
19 Office Closed
19 Crafts for a Cause
23-25 Youth Retreat

March

2-7 Mission Trip to Honduras

Attendance: Please complete a pew rack attendance card or scan the QR code with your phone's camera and click the link.

Don't forget to include the first name of each family member present as well as surname.



Trinity Church Staff

Neil Hough
Taehwan Roh
Harriet Latta
Jose Nuñez
Jerry Rich
Emily Yosmanovich
Catherine Wethington
Laurie Strollo

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Preschool Director
Director of Youth Ministry
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Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Worship is live streamed on Sundays from the Chapel at 8:30 a.m. and from the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on YouTube: youtube.com/UMTrinity. The Celtic Service can be seen on the last Sunday of the month at 5 p.m. on YouTube and Facebook.