

# JESUS OUR BROTHER, KIND AND GOOD



**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
5 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 2025

# Christmas Eve 2025

## Prelude

*Christmas Joy Medley* (arr. Lanier)  
Haakon Anderson, alto sax, Ashley Thompson, flute

## Welcome

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Whittington family

Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: This evening, we gather to recall the surprise of the birth of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ. As a sign of what he means to our world, we light candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

*(light 1st candle)*

We speak of hope because the promises of God to us can be trusted.

*(light 2nd candle)*

We work for peace because Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and calls each of us to follow him in his gentle way.

*(light 3rd candle)*

We share love with others because God first loved us.

*(light 4th candle)*

We express our joy because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of God.

*(light the Christ candle)*

Tonight, we light the white candle, to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised long ago, he has come among us to stay; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement. May the flame of this candle remind us that in him we are the light of the world, and in following him, our path leads beyond shadows to the true light of life.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

## HYMN

*Light the Advent Candle* (stanza 5)

Light the Christmas candles, now:  
sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;  
birthday candles for the King,  
let the alleluias ring.

Candle, candle, burning bright,  
shining in the cold winter night;  
candle, candle, burning bright,  
fill our hearts with Christmas light.

## Prayer

Pastor Taehwan

Leader: God of darkness and quiet space, you speak into our world a Word we did not expect.  
**All: Your word of compassion and reconciliation is not perhaps what we wanted, but it is what we most needed.**

Leader: Across the world, people come together to celebrate the arrival of Jesus.

**All: Unite us as one family of many cultures and languages, that we may shine with the one light that scatters all darkness.**

Leader: Your Word has become flesh, bringing light to all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

**All: Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.**

Leader: Your good news is intended for all, and flows from this night into the year that is and is to come.

**All: May we remain faithful to your call on our lives, and embody your love to the world around us. Amen.**

## The Angel Appears to Mary and Joseph

Peter Bricker

The Hebrew people were longing for a Savior, someone who would restore their kingdom and bring peace to their nation. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he told her that she would become the mother of a child like no other. Mary would give birth to the Son of God, whose Kingdom would have no end. This child was the one about whom the prophets had spoken, but no one expected the way he would bring peace, justice, hope, and love into the world. The news was strange and wonderful to Mary, and to Joseph as well.

**Carol**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*(Parents' note: Mary and Joseph come forward)*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord.

**The Birth of the Messiah**

Sophia Nelson

About that time, the Roman Emperor demanded that everyone be counted in order to pay their taxes to Rome. So Joseph and Mary traveled to Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph tried to find a place to stay, but there was no room for them in an inn. So Mary gave birth to Jesus, wrapped him in cloth to keep him warm and laid him in the only cradle available to them: a feed-box used by animals.

**Carol**

*Away in a Manger*

*(Baby Jesus and stars come forward)*

Away in a manger,  
no crib for His bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.

**The Animals Gather at the Manger**

Grace Chappell

We can imagine that the animals in the stable that night gathered round to see the newborn baby. They knew what giving birth was. Perhaps they sensed that this child was special. Part of God's good Creation. They were witness to the first minutes of Christ's earthly life. Perhaps, on that cold night, the warm breath of those animals was a blessing to the babe. The one who came to bring peace and love to all the world.

**Carol**

*The Friendly Beasts*

Jesus, our brother kind and good,  
was humbly born in a stable rude.  
The friendly beasts around him stood,  
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

*(Donkeys come forward during this verse)*

"I," said the donkey all shaggy and brown,  
"I carried his mother up hill and down.  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town."  
"I," said the donkey all shaggy and brown.

*(Cows come forward during this verse)*

"I," said the cow all white and red,  
"I gave him my manger for a bed.  
I gave him my hay to pillow his head."  
"I," said the cow all white and red.

*(Sheep come forward during this verse)*

"I," said the sheep with the curly horn,  
"I gave him my wool for a blanket warm.  
He wore my coat on Christmas morn."  
"I," said the sheep with the curly horn.

*(Doves come forward during this verse)*

"I," said the dove from the rafters high,  
"I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry.  
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I."  
"I," said the dove from the rafters high.

So all the beasts by some good spell,  
in the stable rude were glad to tell  
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,  
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

### **The Angels Appear to the Shepherds**

Jack Nelson

In the fields nearby, shepherds were watching over their flocks. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the shepherds were frightened. But the angel shared with them the good news that a child had been born in Bethlehem - one anointed by God for a special purpose. He would open the way to friendship with God for all people. The angel shared with the shepherds how they could find Jesus, wrapped in cloth and lying in a feed-box.

### **Carol**

*The First Noel*

*(Shepherds and sheep come forward)*

The First Noel, the angels did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the East beyond them far.  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel!

### **The Heavenly Host**

Alison Bricker

Suddenly, a large choir of angels from heaven also appeared to the shepherds, praising God saying, "Glory to God! Peace on earth! Goodwill toward all people!" When the angels left them and went into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this for ourselves, which the Lord has made known to us!"

### **Carol**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

*(Angels come forward)*

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

### **The Wise Men**

Trent Hooton

Some time later, wise men in the east discovered a new star to their west, and followed it to Bethlehem. There they found Jesus. And they bowed down to worship him, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh - precious things. Like the shepherds, they joined in glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen.

**Carol**

*We Three Kings  
(Wise men, camels and gifts come forward)*

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Callahan)

Jerry Rich

**\* Lighting of the Candles**

*At this time, you are invited to turn on your candle.*

**\* Carol**

*Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

**\* Sending Forth**

We ask, Lord, that what we say with our lips, we believe, and that what we believe, we practice in our daily lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, our hope, and our peace. **Amen.**

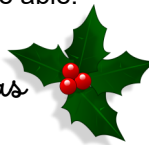
**Postlude**

*In dulci jubilo* (Bach)

Jerry Rich

\*Please stand as you are able.

Merry Christmas  
from our  
Trinity UMC Staff  
and Pastors



*If you purchased poinsettia, you are invited to take it home following the service.*

**Attendance QR Code**

We ask that everyone complete an attendance card found in the pew rack or scan the QR code with your phone's camera to register your attendance today.



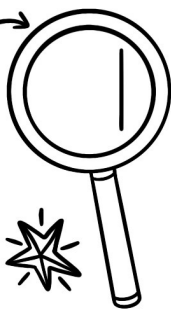




# Poinsettias

<i>Given by . . .</i>	<i>In Memory / In Honor of . . .</i>
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

How many small stars can you find?



Answer: 12

# JOY TO THE WORLD

## BIBLE QUIZ!

What city was Jesus born in?

- a) Jerusalem b) Bethlehem c) Nazareth

What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?

- a) a rainbow b) a dove c) a star

Where did Jesus sleep when he was born?

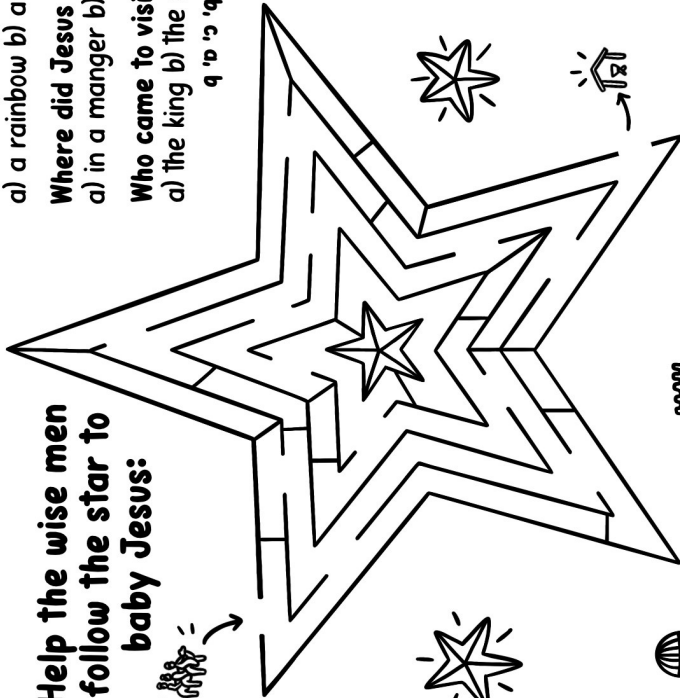
- a) in a manger b) in a basket c) in a cradle

Who came to visit baby Jesus first?

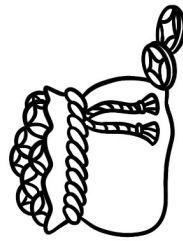
- a) The king b) The shepherds c) The wise men

q 'a 'c 'b :sramsup znuq

Help the wise men follow the star to baby Jesus:



Fill in the blanks! What gifts did the wise men bring Jesus?



Are you as wise as the wise men that visited Jesus? Unscramble the words!

GLANE

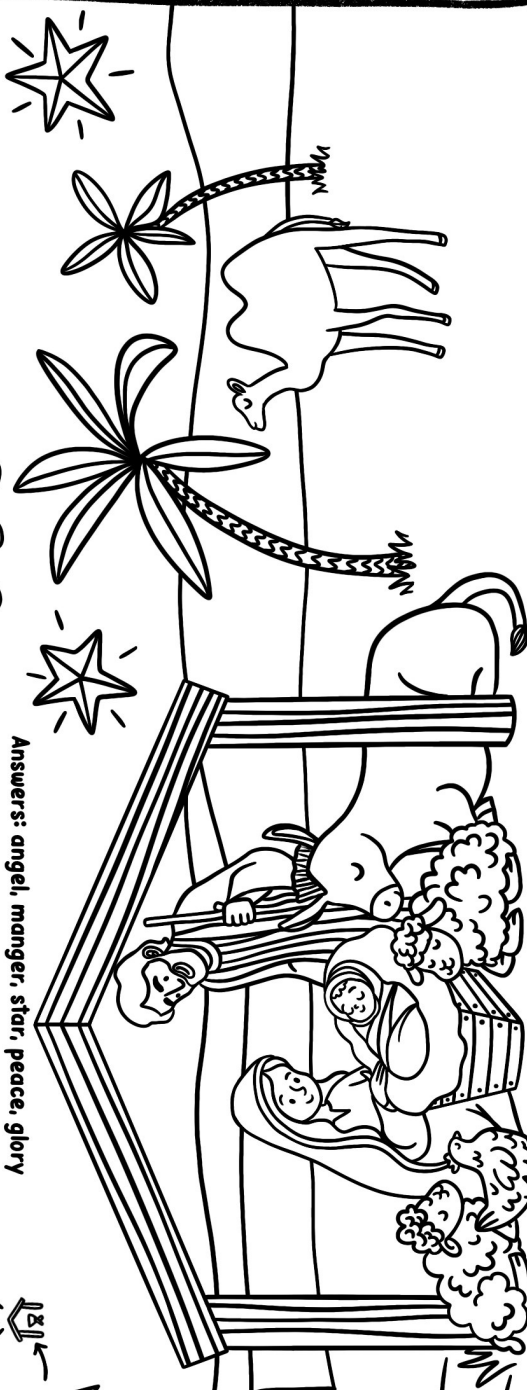
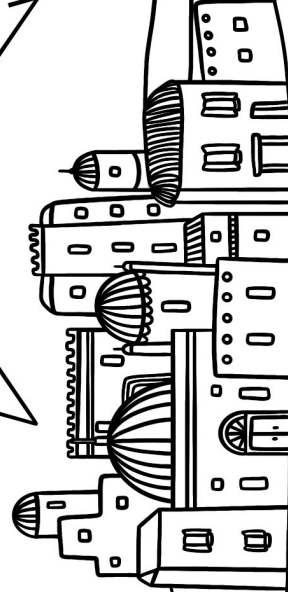
RNAGEM

TASR

ECEAP

LROYG

Answers: angel, manger, star, peace, glory



# Merry CHRISTMAS



Trinity has been a worshipping congregation for over 215 years. Like all churches, the best we have to offer is Jesus Christ, and we think He is seeking to know us all - you included!

**Come worship with us! Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**

If you can't be here in-person, our Sunday morning worship services are livestreamed on Youtube: [youtube.com/UMTrinity](https://youtube.com/UMTrinity). Children's Worship (for children ages 4 - 6th grade) is available during the 10:30 a.m. service.

## Children & Youth at Trinity

**Children and Youth (Grades 7 - 12) are precious to us at Trinity UMC! We have found that these disciples connect with God in their own unique ways.**

### Children's Ministries

**Children's Worship Folders** are available during Sunday morning worship services and are categorized by age and reading ability. Please remember to return your folder to the used bin so it can be replenished for next week.

**Children's Worship** (ages 4 - 6th grade) takes place during the 10:30 service following the Children's Message.

### Youth Group (Grades 7 - 12)

Meets weekly: next meeting: Jan. 4: from 4:30 - 6 p.m.

For more information about volunteering with Youth or joining Youth fellowship, contact Catherine Wethington ([umtrinityyouth@gmail.com](mailto:umtrinityyouth@gmail.com)).

## Trinity Church Staff

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