



Trinity United Methodist Church

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December 3 2023

First Sunday of Advent

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

We ask that everyone complete an attendance card found in the pew rack or scan the QR code on page 4 with your phone's camera and click the link to register your attendance today. Don't forget to include **each** family member present.

Prelude *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* (Brahms) Jerry Rich

Welcome and Announcements Clergy

* Call to Worship Taehwan Roh

The time is coming when the Lord will pour his most special blessing on the earth.

We want to be ready for that time. What should we do?

Be vigilant. Keep your hearts, minds, and spirits open to God's word.

Help us, O Lord, to be aware of all of your blessings.

Come, let us celebrate God's love for us.

Make our hearts ready to receive your Gift of Love, O Lord. Amen.

* Gathering Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* p. 3, UMH 196

Lighting of the Advent Candle Laurie Strollo (8:30), Olin & Nadine Wethington (10:30)
Light the Advent Candle (vs 1) FWS 2090

Light the Advent candle one; Now the waiting has begun;

We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;

Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Hanging of the Ornaments

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 (8:30) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (French carol) Catherine Wethington

Offertory (10:30) *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* (Andrews) Chancel Choir

Scripture Matthew 24:36-44 Taehwan Roh

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the

flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son

of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding

meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what

day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night

the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Message *Wake Up* Neil Hough

Sacrament of Holy Communion Clergy

* Closing Hymn *Soon and Very Soon* p. 6, UMH 706

* Benediction Neil Hough

* Closing Music *Praise God, All Christians* (Vetter) Jerry Rich

* Please stand as you are able.

Grow — Pray — Study

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

Monday, December 4 — Isaiah 2:1-5

The words of the Old Testament prophets are prominently featured during the Advent and Christmas seasons. At this time of year, we read their words through the lens of Jesus' birth and affirm that Jesus is the Messiah that the Israelites were expecting. They help us understand what kind of Messiah the Israelites expected, which then helps us understand what the Gospel writers tell us about Jesus' life and ministry.

- What does Isaiah teach you about God's plans? As you anticipate Christmas, what are you expecting God to do in your life?
- Prayer: *God of Eternity, I am thankful for the message of the prophets who help me prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. Help me understand their message. Amen.*

Tuesday, December 5 — Psalm 122

Psalm 122 is a prayer for peace. As you read and pray these words, consider how they relate to yesterday's reading from Isaiah, especially Isaiah 2:4. If Jesus fulfills the expectations of Israel, the question we need to consider right now is: how does Jesus bring peace to our lives? (Remember that Isaiah 9:6 describes Jesus as the "*Prince of Peace*.") Considering that Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection turns the world up-side down, another question — a challenging question — is: how does Jesus bring peace to our world?

- What can you do today that will help you experience the peace that Jesus offers? What can you do today to that will share the peace of Jesus with others?
- Prayer: *God of Peace, our hurting and broken world is desperate for Good News. Fill me with your peace today, so that I might be an instrument of your peace for others. Amen.*

Wednesday, December 6 — Matthew 24:36-44

We read passages like this one during Advent, because we not only anticipate and prepare for the celebration of Jesus' coming at Christmas, we also anticipate and prepare for Jesus' return. There is a past, present, and future aspect to Advent. (The word "*advent*" means "*coming*.") Before his death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus instructed his disciples to "keep awake" (Matthew 24:42). He doesn't mean that we should never (physically) sleep. He means that we should be alert and ready for his return.

- How does your expectation that Jesus will return affect your life right now? Does it make a difference?
- Prayer: *Promise-Keeping God, thank you for reminding me of your promise that Jesus will return. Let your Kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

Thursday, December 7 — Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus' parable about the bridesmaids teaches us that faithful discipleship includes being ready for Jesus to come at any time. We do not want to be caught by surprise and left out of the banquet feast. Clearly, this is pointing to Jesus' ultimate return, which could happen at any time. But it also teaches us to be alert for what God is doing in our lives right now. This is one of the ways Jesus describes discipleship — the spiritual discipline of paying attention to what God is doing in our lives and in the world around us.

- Which spiritual disciplines help you pay attention to what God is doing in your life? What is God doing in your life right now?
- Prayer: *Gracious God, forgive me for too often sleepwalking through life and failing to notice all that you are doing in my life and in the world. Help me wake up. Amen.*

Friday, December 8 — Romans 13:11-14

New Testament writers expected Jesus to return during their lifetime. There was a sense of urgency to their message and the fact that Jesus' return was delayed was troubling to them. As time passed, first-century Christians began to see that Jesus' delay was a gift of God's grace, allowing them time to share the Good News. The problem was that the passing of time led to complacency and even apathy toward the mission of the church. Then, as now, followers of Jesus were tempted to believe that they had plenty of time to follow, obey, and serve Jesus.

- Do you think the continued delay of Jesus' return is creating a sense of complacency in your life or in the ministry of the Church? How might you reignite a sense of "missional" urgency?
- Prayer: *God of Salvation, thank you for the message of Advent, which reignites in me a desire to share the Good News of your life-changing love and grace with others. Amen.*

Saturday, December 9 — Revelation 3:1-6

The Revelation to John is a pastoral letter written to seven churches in Asia (see Revelation 1:4). The whole of the Revelation is for all churches and all believers, but chapters 2 and 3 contain specific messages for their unique situations. The message to Sardis echoes what Jesus says in the Gospels and the apostle Paul says in his letters: "*Wake up!*" If we take this message seriously, it means that we will "*wake up*" to our need for God's grace and "*wake up*" to the promise of salvation through Jesus.

- Let Advent 2023 be your "*alarm clock*." It's time to **wake up!**
- Prayer: *Merciful God, I am grateful for your love and grace and the gift of salvation. Thank you for this wake-up call. Open my heart and mind to receive the gifts of Christmas. Amen.*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL

87.87 D

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



Trinity Moms' Group
Invites All Women to a

Christmas Cookie Exchange

 December 14, 6:30 p.m.
 Newcomb Residence
 RSVP to m_newcomb@yahoo.com





Advent & Christmas

Worship at Trinity **Sundays of Advent**

- Dec. 3 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 10 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols
Dec. 17 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Children's Presentation
Dec. 24 10:30 a.m. only

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

- 5 p.m. Family Service
8 p.m. Candlelight & Communion
11 p.m. Candlelight & Communion



A CELTIC SERVICE OF
hope
and
peace
December 17
5 p.m.
on Youtube



Support Youth & Scouts
Christmas Tree Sales
Lot Hours:
Thurs. & Fri. 5 - 7 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun. 12 - 5 p.m.
Scan QR code to help on the lot.

Soon and Very Soon

706

1. Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King;

(Hal-le - lu - jah!)

soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King;

(Hal-le - lu - jah!)

soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King.

Hal-le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King.

2. No more dy-ing there,
3. No more cry-ing there,

WORDS: Andraé Crouch, 1978 (Rev. 21:3-4)

MUSIC: Andraé Crouch, 1978; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1987

VERY SOON
Irr.

© 1978 by Communiqué Music, Inc. & Crouch Music Corp.

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

Engage Bible Study

Monday at 7 p.m., on Zoom. Contact Jim Wilson for details - jaswilson@sloft.com

Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID: 894 8087 9762
Tuesdays are hybrid (in-person & on Zoom).
Wednesday at 7 p.m.: Meeting ID: 886 5257 6837

Prayer Group

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

Advent Study Starts December 5 and 6

Join Pastor Neil for a three-week Advent study called, *What Child Is This?* When we tell the Christmas Story, we often combine details found in individual Gospels and create a single story about the birth of Jesus. During the study, we'll look separately at what Matthew, Luke, and John tell us about Jesus coming into the world and consider the message they each want us to hear. The class will meet Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the library and on Zoom (starting December 5) and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on Zoom (starting December 6).



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. For more details and to register, please visit the youth webpage: umtrinity.org/education/youth. Registration is needed now so we can order Bibles. Scan the QR code for registration.



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

Alan, Alice, Amanda & David, Amber & Brianna, Andrea, Andrew, Arnold, Audrey, Beem family, Betty, Bill & Maddie, Brett, Brian, Bruce, Bud, Carol & Rich, Caroline, Carrie, Cathy, Chris, Christopher, Claudia, Daniel, Danny, Dave & Gail, Davey, David & Carol, Darlene & Steve, Desarae, Di Letti family, Donnie, Doris, Ed, Elaine, Eileen, Ellie, Erica & Roberto, Erik, Fran & Tom, Gabe, Gary & Lindie, Glenda, Greg, Gregg, Hammer family, Harriet, Harry, Henry, Hong family, Jackie, Jan, Janice, Jean, Jeanette, Jeanne, Jeff, Jenna, Jessica, Jimmy, Joan, Joe & Marie, John, Jomer, Josie, Judi, Judy, Kathy, Kay & John, Krista, Kobi, Lajoie family, Landaverde family, Laura, Lejoy family, Leslie, Linda, Liz & David, Lon, London family, Lori, Luana, Lynne, Mack, Macy, Marcia, Marcienne, Marilyn, Mark, Mary, Matt, Matthias, Michael, Michelle, Mickey & Ruth, Mike, Moore family, Nancy, Nell, Nina, Norma, Norman, Pat, Patty, Paul, Pauline & Merlin, Pearl family, Peg & Dick, Peter, Peter & Laura, Powers family, Prissilla, Sally, Sandra, Sheila, Spencer, Stephanie, Susan, Teresa, Tim, Tom, Tony, Vanna, 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 in the Middle East, protection from gun violence in the world and for its victims and families, those living in war zones, hostages, those living with cancer, more empathy in the world.

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).

Ushers Needed

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

Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

TODAY: 4:30-6 p.m.
Dec. 10: 4:30-6 p.m.

The Trinity Youth Group/Trinity Congregation share the sales shifts with the Trinity Boy Scout Troops. All proceeds from the sales support our Boy Scout and Youth Group activities throughout the year. Please support our annual fundraiser.

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

Coming Up

December

- 3 Martha's Table
- 4 Crafts for a Cause
- 10 Lessons & Carols
- 12 Trustees Meeting
- 14 Cookie Exchange
- 16 Christ House
- 17 Celtic Service
- 18 Crafts for a Cause
- 24 No 8:30 a.m. worship
- 24 Christmas Eve: 5, 8, 11 p.m.
- 25 Office Closed
- 26 Office Closed

January

- 7 Confirmation Kick-off
- 9 Book Chat
- 15 Office Closed
- 20 Christ House

March 2024

- 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.



Confirmation 2024
& Youth 2023-24
Registration

Trinity Church Staff

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

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Office Manager
Facilities Manager
Director of Music
Preschool Director
Director of Youth Ministry
Director of Children's Ministry

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director.trinitypreschool@gmail.com
umtrinityyouth@gmail.com
lstrollo@umtrinity.org

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.