



Jesus our brother, kind and good

Trinity United Methodist Church
5 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 2023

Prelude

Carol Medley

The Case Family Brass

Welcome and Greeting

Clergy

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Isobel, Spencer & Leah Miller

Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: This evening, we are gathered to recall the hope we have in Christ. We light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(light 1st candle)

We speak of hope because God keeps his promises to us.

(light 2nd candle)

We work for peace because Jesus is the Prince of Peace and calls each of us to follow him.

(light 3rd candle)

We show love because God first loved us.

(light 4th candle)

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

(light the Christ candle)

Now we light the last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but we will have 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

Clergy

Leader: God of darkness and silence, you will pierce the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in the flesh.

All: May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.

Leader: People throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth.

All: Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all darkness.

Leader: Your Word becomes 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 proclaimed to all.

All: May we remain faithful to the mystery of your Word and embody your love to the world around us. Amen.

The Angel Appears to Mary and Joseph

Jack Newcomb

People were longing for a Savior, someone who would make everything right between them and God once and for all. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he told her that she would become the mother of a very special child. 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. The one to bring God's peace, justice, hope, and love into the world. The angel of the Lord also appeared to Joseph to share the good news of this child.

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(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

During that time, the emperor issued a law that everyone must return to their hometown to be counted in a census. Joseph and Mary traveled to Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a place to stay, but there was no room for them in the inns. So Mary had her baby, wrapped him in cloth to keep him warm, and laid him in a manger.

Hymn

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 bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay.

The Animals Gather at the Manger

Landon Frantz

The animals in the stable that night gathered round to see the newborn baby. They beheld his peace and joy shown through his presence. Even as part of God's good creation, they had no way of knowing exactly what they were witnessing—the first minutes of earthly life for the Christ Child. Each took his or her turn caring for that precious child who would bring peace and love to 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.

(Curly horn 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

Grace Chappell

In the fields nearby, shepherds were watching their flocks. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the shepherds were afraid. But the angel shared with them the good news. A child had been born in Bethlehem. This child is the Messiah, the Lord. He will save all people from their sins. As a sign that this is true, the angel assured the shepherds that they would find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Hymn

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

Trent Hooton

Suddenly, a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God saying, "Glory to God! Peace on earth! Goodwill toward men!" When the angels left them and went into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

Hymn

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 Son 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

Allison White

Some time later, wise men saw a star rising in the east and followed it to Bethlehem. There, they found the child. And they bowed down to worship him, presenting Christ with the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Together with the angels, they joined in glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen.

Hymn

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

Neil Hough

Offertory

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Jerry Rich

* Lighting of the Candles

Clergy

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

* Hymn

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

Grant, Lord, that what we say with our lips we believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Postlude

Toccata on "God Rest You Merry" (Wagner)

Jerry Rich

*Please stand as you are able.

If you bought poinsettias, please take them home following the service.

The page is decorated with watercolor-style illustrations of red poinsettia flowers and green leaves. Some leaves have small red berries. The illustrations are placed around the edges of the page, framing the central text.

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

Children & Youth at Trinity

All activities resume January 7.

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

Confirmation Class

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. Contact Pastor Anne at eaehough@gmail.com or Catherine at umtrinityyouth@gmail.com for more information.



Faith Friends for Confirmation: Interested in being an adult faith friend for one of our Confirmands? Contact Anne or Catherine for more details.

Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

Next meeting: Jan. 8: 4:30 - 6 p.m.

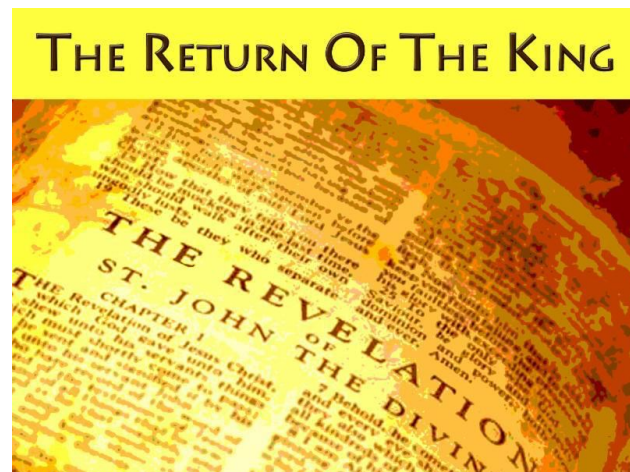
Register at <http://bit.ly/youthreg22> or scan the QR code.

For more information about volunteering with youth or joining youth group, contact Catherine Wethington (umtrinityyouth@gmail.com).



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***.



Merry CHRISTMAS



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
Sexton
Director of Music
Preschool Director
Director of Youth Ministry
Director of Children's Ministry

nhough@umtrinity.org
troh@umtrinity.org
hlatta@umtrinity.org
703-356-3312
jrich@potomacschool.org
director.trinitypreschool@gmail.com
umtrinityyouth@gmail.com
lstrollo@umtrinity.org

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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. Children's Worship and Club 56 (for children ages 4 - 6th grade) is available during the 10:30 a.m. 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.

