



Trinity United Methodist Church

A Service of Lessons & Carols



image AI created

the light shines in the darkness

and the darkness has not overcome it

John 1:5

December 14, 2025

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101
703-356-3312 | umtrinity.org | info@umtrinity.org

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 *What Child Is This?* (Norian) Jerry Rich (8:30)
People, Look East (arr. Rich) Trinity Ringers

Welcome

* Call to Worship *from Psalm 146*

All Creation holds its breath,
the time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels awaits its cue to sing.

We wonder at what God can do around us, and in us.

Prepare the way to your heart, for the grace of God stoops low to meet us.

Hear the Good news: Emmanuel, God-with-Us, is coming!

**We gather to make ready our hearts
for the coming of Christ, our hope for new life.**

* Gathering Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (verses 1-3) bulletin p.3

Lighting of the Advent Candle *Light the Advent Candle* (vs 3) p. 3

Light the Advent candle three; think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing "Peace on earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Bidding Prayer & The Lord's Prayer Taehwan Roh

**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.**

Liturgy of Lessons and Carols

I: Isaiah 40:1-5 *Comfort Ye, My People* (Handel) Brendon O'Donnell, tenor

II: Isaiah 11:1-6 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* p. 4

III: Micah 5:2-4 *How Far Is It to Bethlehem* (Willcocks) Trinity Ensemble / Chancel Choir

IV: Isaiah 9:2-3, 5-7 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (verses 1-2) p. 4

V. Luke 1:8-17 *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Darke) Trinity Ensemble / Chancel Choir

VI. Luke 1:26-33 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* p. 5

Message Dave Rochford

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 *A Christmas Blessing* (Stopford) Philip Keirstead (8:30)
Gabriel's Message (Pettman) Chancel Choir

* Closing Hymn *Love Came Down at Christmas* p. 5

* Benediction

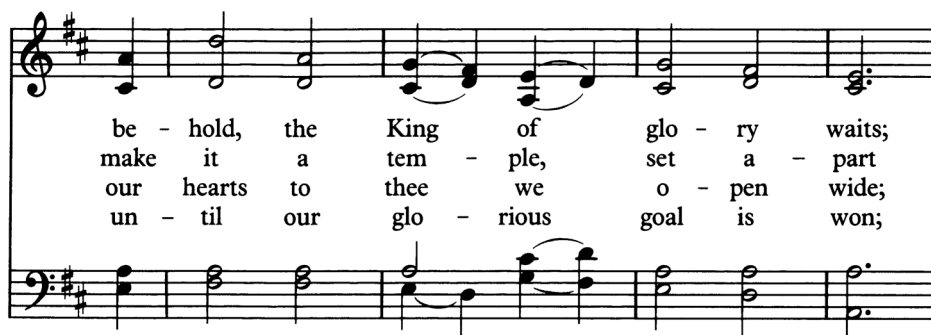
* Postlude *Noël X* (Daquin) Jerry Rich

213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

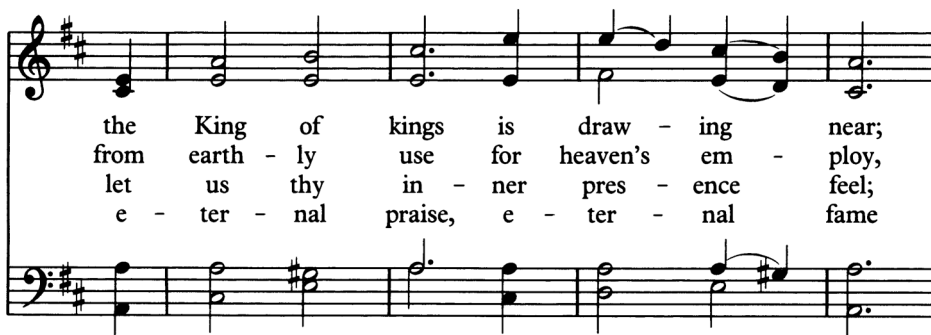
Verses 1-3



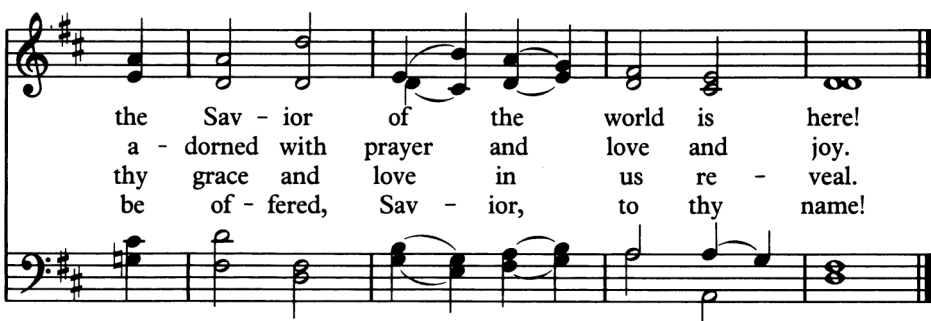
1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
 3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;
 4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on



be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;
 make it a tem - ple, set a - part
 our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;
 un - til our glo - rious goal is won;



the King of kings is draw - ing near;
 from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,
 let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;
 e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame



the Sav - ior of the world is here!
 a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 thy grace and love in us re - veal.
 be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)
 MUSIC: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
LM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.

Refrain:

Rejoice, Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.

Refrain

IN PRAISE OF CHRIST

Of the Father's Love Begotten 184

Verses 1-2

Unison

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be-gan to be,
2. O ye heights of heaven, a-dore him; an-gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
3. Christ, to thee with God the Fa-ther, and, O Ho-ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al-pha and O-me-ga, he the source, the end-ing he
powers, do-min-ions, bow be-fore him, and ex-tol our God and King;
hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing, and un-wea-ried prais-es be:

of the things that are, that have been and that fu-ture years shall see,
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev-ery voice in con-cert ring,
hon-or, glo-ry and do-min - ion, and e - ter-nal vic-to-ry,

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

WORDS: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851 and Henry W. Baker, 1859

MUSIC: 11th cent. *Sanctus* trope; arr. by C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
87.87.887

Arr. © 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world;
the star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

CHRIST'S GRACIOUS LIFE

242 Love Came Down at Christmas

1. Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
2. Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
3. Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor love for plea and gift and sign.

*"neighbor" may be substituted for "all men"

WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, 1885
MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by David Evans, 1927; alt.
Harm. by permission of Oxford University Press

GARTAN
67.67

Grow — Pray — Study

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



Monday, December 15 — Isaiah 40:1–11

Isaiah speaks to a people who have waited long for hope to take shape. Into their uncertainty, God offers a word of genuine comfort—promising that valleys will rise, rough places will be made smooth, and a new way will be opened. This vision does not dismiss hardship but reminds us that God’s renewal often begins quietly in the very places we feel worn. In these verses we also see God’s tenderness: a shepherd who gathers the lambs and carries them close. For anyone longing for steadiness in a demanding season, this passage reminds us that God guides not with pressure but with gentleness, leading us step by step toward restoration.

- Where do you long for God’s comfort this week?
- What might it look like to trust that God is preparing a way for you even now?
- **Prayer:** God of comfort, steady my heart and meet me in the places that feel uncertain. Help me trust your gentle leading as you guide me toward renewal. Amen.

Tuesday, December 16 — Isaiah 11:1–10

Isaiah imagines new life emerging from what appears lifeless—a shoot growing from a stump. This vision invites us to see that God often begins transforming work in places that seem cut down, exhausted, or beyond hope. God’s Spirit brings wisdom, peace, and deep renewal into spaces that feel barren.

This passage also widens our imagination about peace. Hostility gives way to harmony, and what once threatened becomes a place of rest. In seasons when our strength feels thin, God reminds us that hope may be quietly taking root in ways we do not yet see.

- Where does your life feel like a “stump,” lacking energy or growth?
- How might God already be growing something new beneath the surface?
- **Prayer:** God of new beginnings, plant your hope within me. Grow in me what I cannot grow alone, and lead me toward your peace. Amen.

Wednesday, December 17 — Micah 5:2–5

Micah speaks of a ruler who emerges from an unexpected place—from a small town, from quiet beginnings rather than power. God often works through what seems ordinary or overlooked, reminding us that holiness can arise in small and hidden spaces. Even when life feels unremarkable, God may be shaping something meaningful.

This passage also reveals God as the one who brings security, peace, and guidance. We are reminded that God’s presence does not depend on our strength but on God’s faithfulness. Even in uncertainty, God is near and actively forming a future grounded in mercy.

- Where might God be quietly at work in your ordinary routines?
- How can humility help you notice God’s presence more clearly?
- **Prayer:** God who works in quiet places, open my eyes to the subtle ways you are moving in my life. Help me trust your gentle and steady presence. Amen.

Thursday, December 18 — Isaiah 9:2–7

Isaiah speaks hope into darkness, announcing a light that breaks through despair. This light brings joy, lifts heavy burdens, and reminds us that God’s power restores rather than overwhelms. In seasons when we feel weighed down, this promise reminds us that no darkness is final. The child who is to come—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—embodies God’s commitment to healing the world. God meets us in places where hope feels thin and rekindles joy that grows slowly but steadily.

- Where do you notice small glimpses of God’s light in your life?
- What burdens might God be inviting you to release into peace this week?
- **Prayer:** God of light, shine into the places where I feel heavy or overwhelmed. Lift my burdens and fill me with the peace you bring. Amen.

Friday, December 19 — Luke 1:26–38

Mary receives a message that feels impossible, yet the angel’s words begin with gentleness rather than demand: “Do not be afraid.” This reminds us that God’s invitations often come with both challenge and grace. Even when we do not see the full path ahead, God meets us with reassurance.

Mary’s response shows trust that grows from humility. Her “Let it be” is not passive but courageous—a willingness to be shaped by God’s presence. In moments when life feels uncertain, Mary invites us to respond with openness to God’s surprising work.

- Where might God be inviting you to respond with courage or openness?
- How does Mary’s trust challenge or encourage your faith today?
- **Prayer:** God who draws near, grant me Mary’s courage. Help me welcome your word with humility and follow your leading with hope. Amen.

Saturday, December 20 — Luke 1:46–55

Mary’s song is a declaration of God’s faithful and transforming love. She names a God who lifts the lowly, fills the hungry, and overturns expectations. Her praise reminds us that hope sees beyond the present moment—it looks toward God’s ongoing redemption.

In this song we hear the steady rhythm of God’s mercy. Even when change feels slow, God is reshaping our lives and our world with grace that reaches across generations. Mary teaches us that praise can anchor us when our present circumstances shift.

- Which part of Mary’s song speaks most clearly to you today?
- Where might God be inviting you to trust the slow but certain work of mercy?
- **Prayer:** God of mercy, let my soul magnify you. Help me see your faithful work in my life and trust the grace that is reshaping the world. Amen.

Today at Trinity

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.

Youth Group, 4:30 p.m.

Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. Visit <https://umtrinity.org/education/youth> to view the Youth calendar.

This Week

Monday: Spire Deadline

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.: Seeking Starlight: A Brief Bible Study for Advent

Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Who is God? How can God be known? And what is God's disposition toward us? These questions will shape a 3-session reflection on the history and present significance of the season called Advent. Come be with us for this broad-reaching, scripture-focused inquiry into what it really means that God chose to become one of us.



★ Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. (Church Library + Zoom)

★ Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Zoom only)

Dec. 2/3 - 16/17. All are welcome!

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.

Saturday: 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.

Coming Up

December 21: Children's Presentation & Cookie Party

Children's Ministry will play Christmas songs during 10:30 worship and celebrate afterward with their annual cookie party.

December 21: Photo Backdrop Available

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

December 21: Service of Hope & Light,

A meditative time of worship and healing for those dealing with loneliness or grief during the holidays at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24

5 p.m. Family Service

8 p.m. Candlelight & Communion



December 25 & 26: Office Closed

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.

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.

Our Prayer List

Aaron, Adamson family, Andrea & Jan, Anne, Annie Ruth, Arla, Arnold family, Leth, Barb, Ben, Beth, Brett, Bud, Casey, Chris, Christie, Clara, Claudia, Corbin, Corte family, Crista, Dale, Dane, Daniel, Dara, Darlene, Dave, Davey, David, 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, Meri, Michael, Nancy, Peggy, Ples, Roh family, Rubina, Sally, Sam & Alex, Scott, Sheila, Staley family, Steve, Sue, Tina, 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, workers losing jobs, people experiencing natural disasters, those without housing, those traveling, those who are hungry.

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.

Quick Links

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

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



Join Trinity in serving
our community this holiday season

SHARE of McLean's Holiday Treat Tables

Wednesday, December 17, 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Contribute to a holiday "treat table" for SHARE clients in one of the following ways:

- providing 25-50 individually wrapped baked goods
- providing 25-50 individual juice packs
- volunteering along with a Trinity SHARE partner (Cindy Oh, Lisa Russell) on one of the selected mornings. Contact Lisa to sign-up: russ5bunch@gmail.com, 571- 294-9525.

Thank you for your generosity in sharing the joy of the Christmas season with our community!



Trinity Church Staff

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

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Office Manager
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Director of Music
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Director of Youth Ministry
Director of Children's 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