



Trinity United Methodist Church



Christ and the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus, Rembrandt van Rijn
Oil on canvas, Dutch, 1648.

December 28, 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 *How Beautiful Are the Feet* from *Messiah* (Handel) Catherine Wethington

Welcome

* Call to Worship *from Psalm 148*

Praise the God of mercy and love.

Praise God with angels in the highest heavens.

Praise Christ, who came as a child.

Praise Christ with all God's children, young and old alike.

Praise the Holy Spirit, who calls us here.

Praise the Spirit from the depths of our souls.

* Gathering Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* bulletin p. 3

Prayer of Confession and Pardon

God who comes near,

you chose to share our life in Jesus.

Yet we confess that we often keep our distance from you.

We confess that we resist your nearness.

You meet us in ordinary days and uncertain moments,

but we sometimes struggle to recognize your presence

when life feels steady or uneventful.

We confess that in our weakness,

we do not always trust that you are already with us.

Merciful God, forgive us.

Teach us to trust that you remain with us,

in joy and in ordinary days. **Amen.**

Children's Message Laurie Strollo

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our prayer will conclude with:

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.

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 *Myn Lyking* (Terry) Catherine Wethington (8:30)
Trinity Ensemble (10:30)

(Continued on page 2)

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

And again, "I will put my trust in him."

And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the Word of God, for us, the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Why Did God Become Human?

Taehwan Roh

Communion (8:30)

* Closing Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

p. 4

* Benediction

* Postlude

Gigue in F (Handel)

Jerry Rich

* Please stand as you are able.

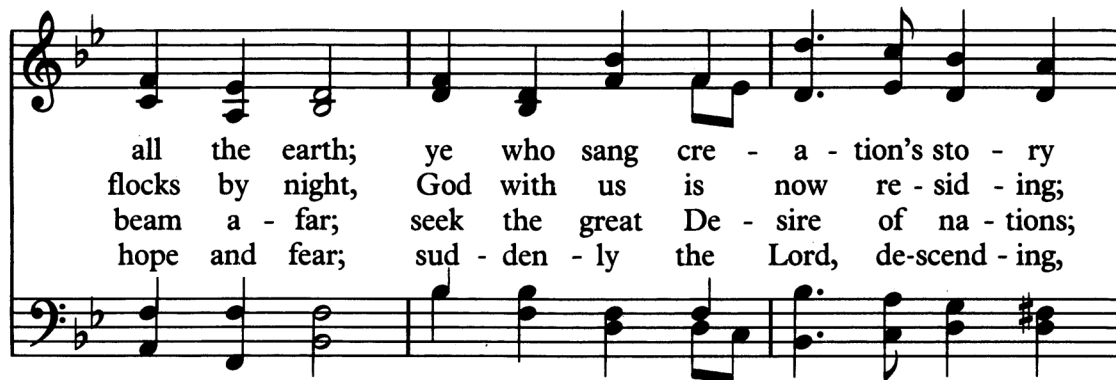
Our Prayer List

Aaron, Adamson family, Anne, Annie Ruth, Arla, Arnold family, Leth, Barb, Ben, Beth, Bill, Brett, Bryan, Bud, Carrie, Casey, Cathy, Chris, Christie, Christina, Cindy, Clara, Claudia, Corbin, Corte family, Crista, Dale, Dane, Daniel, Dara, Darlene, Dave, Davey, David, DeMicco family, Doug, Douglas, Dudley & Susan, Earley family, Emmett, Evan, Faga family, Frances, Frank, Gail, Gloria, Grace, Gray family, Gregg, Hager family, Hanna, Heather & Paul, Jack, Jason, Jessica, Jewel, Jimmy, Joan, Joe, Joel, John, Karen, Kate & Leo, Kathy, Kizner family, Kristen, Lenore, Linda, Luke, Maggie, Margaret, Margie, Marie, Mary, Mary Frances, Matt, Matthew, Meri, Michael, Nancy, Peggy, Ples, Rasmussen family, Richard, Robert, Roh family, Rubina, Russ, Sally, Sam & Alex, Scott & Kathy, Sharon, Sheila, Staley family, Steve, Sue, Tina, Vanna, Vasser family, Vicki, Whitney, 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, people experiencing natural disasters, those without housing, those traveling, those who are hungry, hostage survivors, those in Australia and Brown University affected by gun violence, students taking exams, families gathering for the holidays.

220 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2. Shep-herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
 4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, watch-ing long in



all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear; sud - den - ly the Lord, de-scend - ing,

Refrain



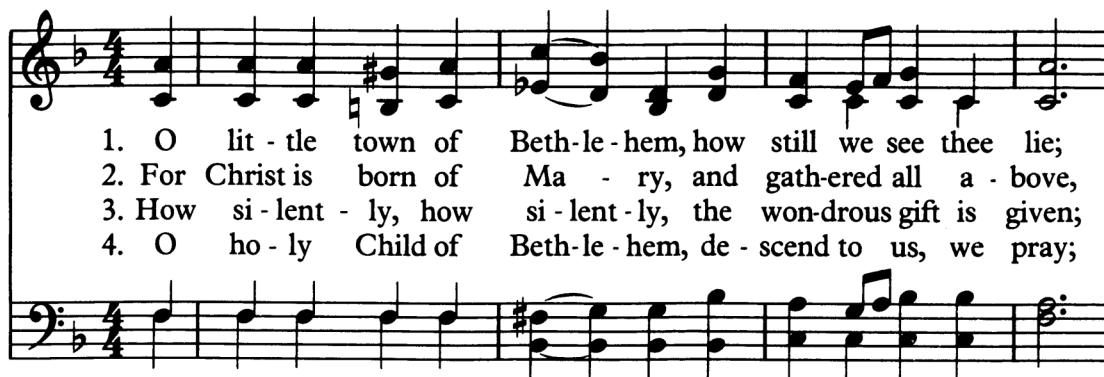
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: Come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



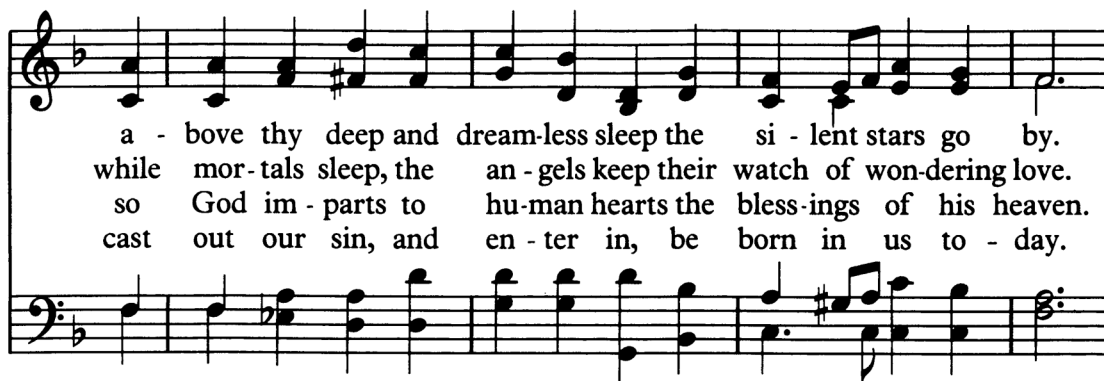
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

230

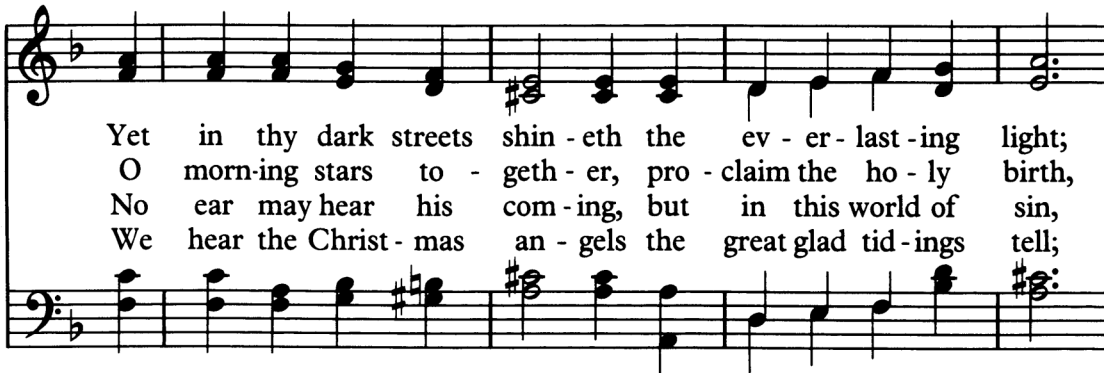
O Little Town of Bethlehem



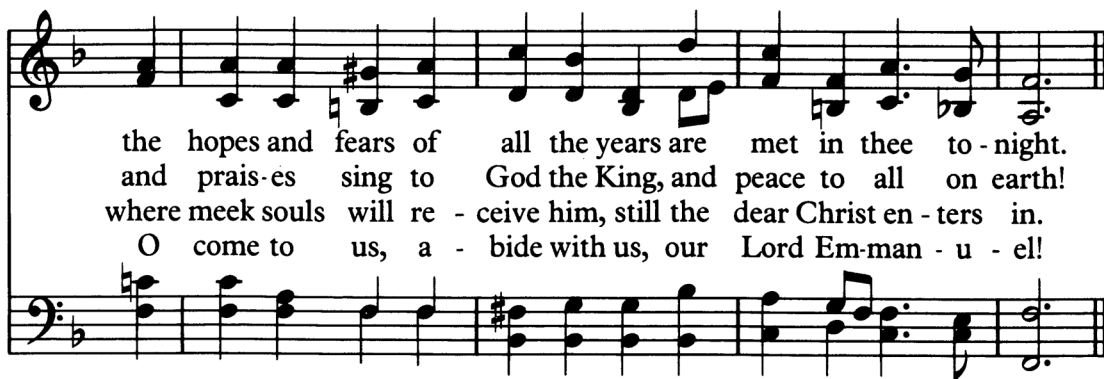
1. O lit - tle town of Beth-le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath-ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won-drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth-le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dering love.
 so God im - parts to hu-man hearts the bless-ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn-ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais-es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em-man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 86.86.76.86

Alt. tune: FOREST GREEN

Grow — Pray — Study

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



Monday, December 29 — Hebrews 2:10–18

Hebrews tells us that it was *fitting* for God to bring salvation through suffering. This word challenges our assumptions about power, success, and divine distance. God did not save humanity from a safe or elevated place, but chose to enter fully into human vulnerability, fear, and limitation. Jesus shares our flesh, our struggles, and our lived reality.

This passage reminds us that God's closeness is not dependent on our strength or clarity. God does not wait for us to become whole before drawing near. Instead, God meets us precisely where life feels unfinished, fragile, or unresolved—and stays.

- Where do you feel most aware of your own weakness right now?
- How might God be closer to you in that place than you realize?
- **Prayer:** God who draws near, thank you for meeting me in my vulnerability. Help me trust your presence even when I feel incomplete. Amen.

Tuesday, December 30 — Psalm 139:1–12

This psalm affirms that there is no place where God's presence cannot reach. Whether in light or darkness, movement or stillness, God remains near. The psalmist speaks not of a distant observer, but of a God who knows deeply, surrounds completely, and accompanies faithfully. After celebrations fade, life often returns to ordinary routines and unanswered questions. This psalm reassures us that God does not withdraw when excitement ends. God remains present in the quiet, unseen, and unremarkable moments of our lives.

- Where do you sense God's nearness most clearly right now?
- In what quiet or hidden spaces might God be inviting you to notice divine presence?
- **Prayer:** Ever-present God, open my awareness to your nearness. Help me trust that you remain with me in every season. Amen.

Wednesday, December 31 — Lamentations 3:19–33

These verses speak honestly about suffering, grief, and endurance. The writer does not deny pain or rush toward resolution, yet still affirms that God's steadfast love has not ended. God's mercies arrive not with spectacle, but with quiet faithfulness, renewed day by day.

This passage reminds us that faith does not require pretending that pain is gone. Instead, faith means remaining open to God's care while living inside unanswered questions. God's presence holds us even when hope feels fragile.

- Where are you carrying unresolved pain or disappointment?
- What would it mean to trust God's mercy one day at a time?
- **Prayer:** Faithful God, hold me when hope feels thin. Teach me to receive your mercy in steady and gentle ways. Amen.

Thursday, January 1 — John 1:14–18

John proclaims that the Word became flesh and lived among us. God did not remain distant or abstract, but chose to dwell fully within human life. Grace and truth are revealed not through separation, but through shared presence and lived relationship.

As a new year begins, this passage reminds us that God's commitment to us is ongoing. The incarnation is not limited to a single moment in history—it continues as God chooses to remain close in ordinary days, unfinished stories, and everyday lives.

- How does the Incarnation shape the way you enter this new year?
- Where might God be inviting you to notice grace already present?
- **Prayer:** God who dwells with us, thank you for choosing closeness. Help me begin this year grounded in your abiding presence. Amen.

Friday, January 2 — Luke 24:13–35

On the road to Emmaus, the risen Christ walks alongside disciples who are confused, grieving, and unsure. Jesus does not immediately reveal himself or correct them, but listens, accompanies, and stays. Recognition comes later, through shared presence and broken bread.

This story reminds us that God often walks with us before we are aware of it. God's presence is not always dramatic or immediate, but patient, faithful, and quietly sustaining.

- Where might God be walking beside you unnoticed?
- How can you remain open to God's presence in confusion or uncertainty?
- **Prayer:** Patient God, help me trust that you walk with me even when I do not recognize you. Stay with me as I journey forward. Amen.

Saturday, January 3 — Romans 8:31–39

Paul assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Neither suffering, uncertainty, nor fear has the power to undo God's closeness. God's love is not fragile or conditional—it is steadfast, enduring, and trustworthy.

This passage grounds us as we move forward. God's incarnation leads not only to forgiveness, but to a lasting relationship that remains through every season of life, including those marked by waiting and vulnerability.

- What fears make you question God's closeness?
- How does this passage invite you to live with greater trust and peace?
- **Prayer:** God of enduring love, root my life in your faithfulness. Help me live with confidence in your unbreakable presence. 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)

Children's Worship takes place following the Children's Message in our Fellowship Building across the Breezeway.

This Week

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.

Coming Up

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 4: 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.

January 7 & 8: Winter Bible Study - see next column

Sessions meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. (Church Library & Zoom) and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Zoom) and continue through February 11 / 12.

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.

January 17: 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 dcjeremi-ah@verizon.net.

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.

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

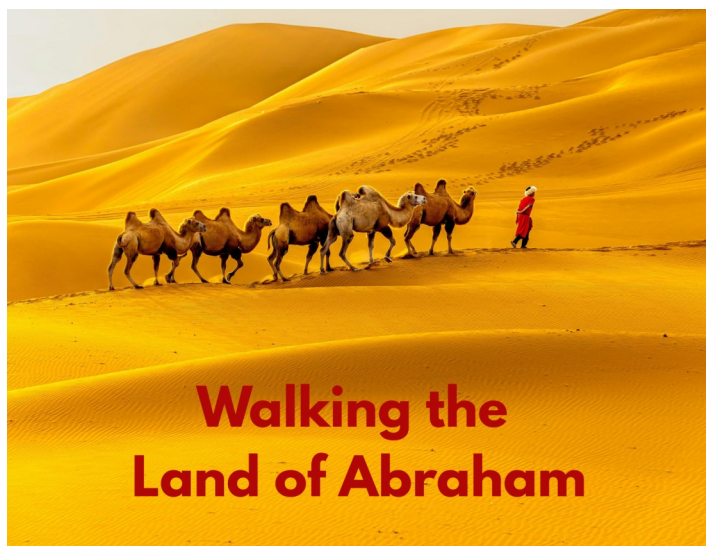
You are cordially invited to meet friends and neighbors after each of our worship services. Join us in the Fellowship Lobby to the right of the breezeway. Each week individuals, families or ministry groups host our refreshments. Please consider signing up for either the 8:30 or 10:30 service's Fellowship 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.



Winter Bible Study: *Walking the Land of Abraham*

Join us for a six-week journey through the Pentateuch as we explore the stories of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, and Moses alongside a close-up look at the lands where these events unfolded. Using Bruce Feiler's *Walking the Bible* video series, supplemented with photos from Pastor Dave's travels, we'll reflect on how these ancient stories shape our own walk with God.

Sessions begin January 7 & 8 and meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. (Church Library & Zoom) and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Zoom). We'll start with an overview of the Near East and the opening chapters of Genesis, continuing through February 11 / 12.

Whether you've traveled to the Middle East or simply hope to someday, come enjoy this visual and spiritual "walk through the land of Abraham." Bring your Bible and your Bible-walking shoes.

Quick Links

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

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



Trinity Church Staff

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Harriet Latta
Jose Nuñez
Jerry Rich
Angi Oxendine
Catherine Wethington
Laurie Strollo

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Facilities Manager
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Director of Youth 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