



Trinity United Methodist Church

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101

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December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 & 10:30a.m.

We ask that everyone complete an attendance card found in the pew rack or scan the QR code on page 12 with your phone's camera and click the link to register your attendance today. Don't forget to include **each** family member present.

Prelude	<i>Pastorale on FOREST GREEN</i> (Purvis)	Jerry Rich
Welcome and Announcements		Clergy
* Call to Worship		Taehwan Roh
Love has come down to us this Advent Season. Divine love which heals and transforms our lives. With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others. We open our hearts to all God's children, the last, the least, and the lost, as well as those who feel privileged. The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us. Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world. Amen.		
* Gathering Hymn	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> (vs 1-4, 6)	p. 3, UMH 211
Lighting of the Advent Candle	<i>Light the Advent Candle</i> (vs 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.	Danner family (8:30), Van Biljon family (10:30) FWS 2090
Children's Presentation (10:30)		Laurie Strollo
Reception of New Members: Melanie Sletten (8:30) Brandon, Jenny, Allison and Charlie White (10:30)		Clergy
Prayers of the People		Taehwan Roh
Offering	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.	Neil Hough
Offertory (8:30)	<i>Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming</i> (Praetorius)	Philip Keirstead
Offertory (10:30)	<i>And the Glory of the Lord</i> (Handel)	Chancel Choir
Scripture	Romans 15:4-13 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.	Taehwan Roh
Message	<i>Hope for the Best</i>	Neil Hough
Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30)		Clergy
* Closing Hymn	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	p. 4, UMH 219
* Benediction		Neil Hough
* Closing Music	<i>Allegro in A Minor</i> from <i>Unto Us a Child Is Born</i> (Kuhnau)	Jerry Rich

* Please stand as you are able.

Grow — Pray — Study

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

Monday, December 18 — James 5:7-11

Christmas is one week away, and our excitement is building. Children of all ages discover that waiting is not easy. We want Christmas to come. We want Jesus to come (again.) The words of James, in chapter 5, are not written specifically for Advent and Christmas, but they are often read this time of year. They speak to our need for patience and endurance. They remind us of God's promises and God's compassion and mercy. Hear these words as God's message to you as you look forward to Christmas.

- Where do you find patience and endurance when you are waiting for Christmas (or for any other exciting event in your life)? What helps you trust in the promise that Jesus is coming again?
- Prayer: *Promise-Keeping God, thank you for strengthening my heart and granting me the gift of patience. Teach me to trust you will come into my life at the perfect time. Amen.*

Tuesday, December 19 — Isaiah 11:1-10

As noted by James (in chapter 5, verse 10) Old Testament prophets waited with patient endurance for the coming of God's promised Messiah-King. Isaiah, in chapter 11, beautifully describes a shoot coming out of the stump (the lineage) of Jesse, who is David's father. We interpret Isaiah 11:1 as referring to Jesus, who is the "son of David" (Matthew 1:1). This is God's vision for the world God created — the whole creation. It is God's vision for the world Jesus came to save.

- What do you think about the "peaceable Kingdom" Isaiah describes? Are you yearning to experience this version of Kingdom-life? Where have you seen signs that God's Kingdom is breaking into the world?
- Prayer: *God of Peace, I confess that I often miss the signs of your presence and signs of your peaceable Kingdom. Help me see everything that you are doing in the world. Amen.*

Wednesday, December 20 — Isaiah 35:1-10

The context for Isaiah 35 is the return of Israel from their exile in Babylon. It is a celebration of God's salvation and envisions the new world that the Israelites will experience. We read these words in Advent (along with Isaiah 11 and other passages from Old Testament prophets) as a reminder that God — who redeems and restores Israel — will also redeem and restore us through Jesus. Like Isaiah 11, this passage describes a vision for the Kingdom God intends. It is the Kingdom God offers to us as a gift.

- How are you experiencing the redemption and restoration God offers you through Jesus? Which parts of God's Kingdom (described by Isaiah) are most appealing to you? Which are most troubling for you?
- Prayer: *Merciful God, I know that your Kingdom is an undeserved gift of grace that I receive in faith. Teach me how to live the Kingdom life you intend every day. Amen.*

Thursday, December 21 — Matthew 3:1-12

The wilderness ministry of John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus to begin his earthly ministry. John invites his hearers to prepare for the coming of Jesus by confessing and repenting of their sins, being baptized, looking for the Kingdom, and bearing fruit worthy of their repentance. In other words, he challenged them to allow God to change their lives and be ready to follow Jesus. For John (and for Jesus) it wasn't enough to say the words or even to pray the prayers of confession and repentance, his hearers were called to a new life because a new day was dawning.

- Spend time in prayer today. In the silence, confess your sins and ask God to change your life. Then, look for signs of God's presence as you "bear fruit worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8).
- Prayer: *God of Grace, I confess today that I am a sinner who needs your grace and forgiveness. Transform me life and prepare me to follow Jesus more closely. Amen.*

Friday, December 22 — Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist plays an important role in the Gospels' account of Jesus' life and ministry. Luke's Gospel introduces his parents Zechariah and Elizabeth and describes his birth (Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80). In Matthew's Gospel, we don't meet John until he is an adult (Matthew 3:1-12). The lives and ministries of John and Jesus are intertwined, but the Gospel writers want us to be clear: Jesus is the Messiah, not John. Notice how Jesus responded when he was asked by John's disciples if he was "the one who is to come" (Matthew 11:3). Jesus tells them to pay attention to what they "hear and see" (Matthew 11:4). The point is: when Jesus comes, lives are transformed.

- What do you hear and see in your life today? What do you hear and see in the world today? What might help you see more clearly signs of God's love and grace in action?
- Prayer: *Eternal God, thank you for sending Jesus into the world to save the world. Open my ears and eyes so that I might hear and see signs of your presence more clearly. Amen.*

Saturday, December 23 — Romans 15:4-13

In the penultimate chapter of his letter to the Romans, Paul points them (and us) to the Scriptures which instruct us in the ways of God and the Good News of the Gospel. He quotes Isaiah 11:10, which promises that out of Jesse's lineage would come the one — Jesus! — who is the source of hope, not just for Israel, but the entire world, both Jews and Gentiles.

- Read Paul's blessing in Romans 15:13 once again. Let it be your Christmas blessing: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
- Prayer: *God of Hope, help me hear the Christmas story with an open heart. Help me hear — and celebrate — the Good News that Jesus' birth has changed the world. Amen.*

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en - sign of thy

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 all peo - ples on thy mer - cy call.

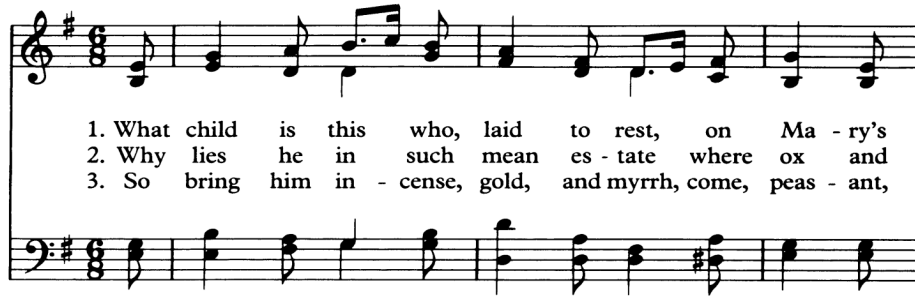
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry VENI EMMANUEL
 Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986 LM with Refrain
 MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

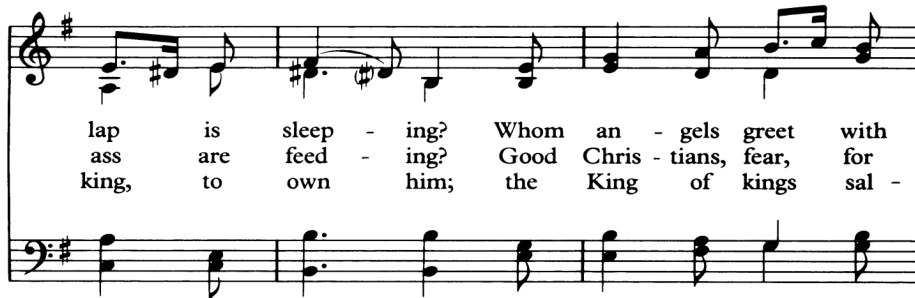
Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thy justice here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

What Child Is This



1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

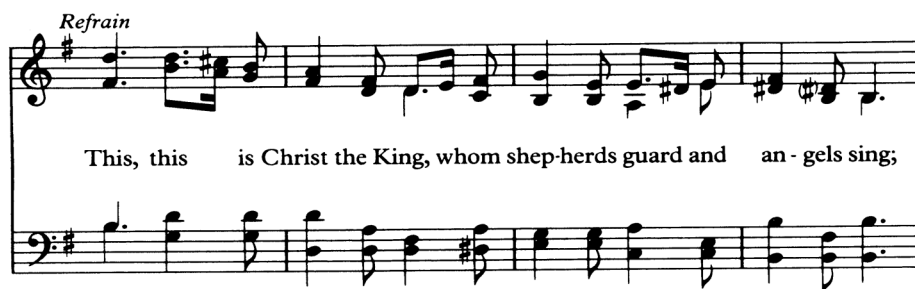


lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for
 king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

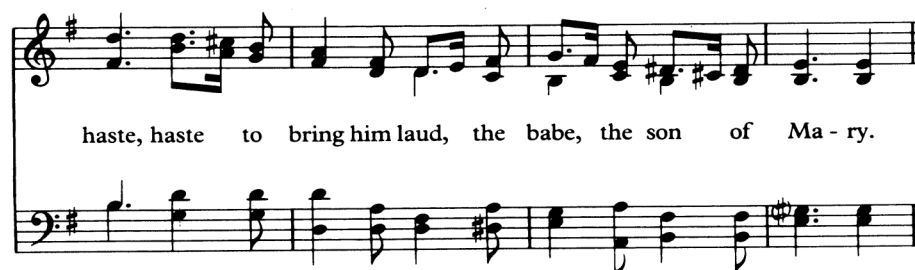


an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

GREENSLEEVES
 87.87 with Refrain

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 (Lk. 2:6-20; Mt. 2:1-12)
 MUSIC: 16th cent. English melody



Advent & Christmas

Worship at Trinity

Sundays of Advent

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

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

Confirmation
2024



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.



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

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 are looking at what Matthew, Luke, and John tell us about Jesus coming into the world and considering the message they each want us to hear. The class meets Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the library and on Zoom and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on Zoom.



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.**

The Scouts and Youth Group would like to thank all the volunteers, parents, and shoppers for helping make this year's Christmas tree lot a success! Your support will help these two ministries provide opportunities for growth and fellowship in 2024.



Our Prayer List

Adam, Alan, Alice, Amanda & David, Amber & Brianna, Andrea, Andrew, Anne, Arnold, Audrey, Barry & Diane, Betty, Bill & Maddie, Brett, Brian, Bruce, Bud, Carol & Rich, Carolina, Caroline, Carrie, Cathy, Chris, Christopher, Claudia, Daniel, Danny, Dara, Dave & Gail, Davey, David & Carol, Darlene & Steve, Desarae, Di Letti family, Donnie, Doris & Joe, Dudley & Susan, Ed, Elaine, Eileen, Ellie, Emmett, Erica & Roberto, Erik, Evans family, Fran & Tom, Gabe, Gary & Lindie, Glenda, Gray, Greg, Gregg, Hammer family, Harriet, Harry, Hefferon family, Henry, Holmes family, Hong family, Jack, Jackie, Jan, Janice, Jason, Jean, Jeanette, Jeanne, Jeff, Jenna, Jenny & Michael, Jessica, Jimmy, Joan, Joe & Marie, John, Jomer, Josie, Judi, Judy, June, Karen, Kathy, Kay & John, Krista, Kobi, Lajoie family, Landaverde family, Laura, Lejoy family, Leslie, Linda, Lindstedt family, Lisa, 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, Olivia, Pat, Patty, Paul, Pauline & Merlin, Pearl family, Peg & Dick, Peter, Peter & Laura, Powers family, Prissila, Rebecca, Sabbagh family, Sally, Sandra, Scott, Sheila, Spencer, Skyard family, Stephanie, Stephen, Steve, Sue, Susan, Teresa, Tim, Tom, Tony, Vanna, Vinnie, 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 and more empathy in the world, protection from gun violence in the world and for its victims and families, those living in war zones, hostages, those living with cancer.

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)

Youth Group resumes January 7.

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

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

1 Office Closed
5 *Spire* deadline
7 Martha's Table
7 Confirmation Kick-off
8 Crafts for a Cause
9 Book Chat
15 Office Closed
16 *Spire* assembly
20 Christ House
22 Crafts for a Cause

February

4 Martha's Table
5 Crafts for a Cause
13 Book Chat
14 Ash Wednesday
17 Christ House
19 Office Closed
19 Crafts for a Cause
23-25 Youth Retreat

March

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.



Trinity Church Staff

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

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Office Manager
Facilities Manager
Director of Music
Preschool Director
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 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.