



Trinity United Methodist Church

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101

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December 18, 2022

4th 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 3 with your phone's camera to register your attendance today.

Prelude	<i>Von Himmel hoch</i> (Pachelbel)	Jerry Rich
Welcome and Announcements		Clergy
Lighting of the Advent Candle	David & Betty-Jo Booth (8:30), Faust Family (10:30)	
	<i>Light the Advent Candle</i> (vs 4)	FWS 2090
	Light the Advent candle four; Think of joy forever more; Christ child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn. Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night; Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.	
* Call to Worship		Eileen Gilmer
	In the midst of darkness, God brings a new light. Thanks be to the God of light. In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace. Thanks be to the God of peace. In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us. Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life. Amen.	
* Gathering Hymn	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	p. 3 / UMH 220
Children's Message		Laurie Strollo
Prayers of the People		Gilmer
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.	
Anthem (8:30)	<i>Myn Lyking</i> (Terry)	Philip Keirstead
Anthem (10:30)	<i>Glory to God from Messiah</i> (Handel)	Chancel Choir
Scripture	Matthew 1:18-25	Eileen Gilmer
	Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.	
Message	<i>"Do Not be Afraid."</i>	Neil Hough
The Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30)		Gilmer
* Closing Hymn	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	p. 3 / UMH 238
* Benediction		Hough
Closing Music	<i>Gigue from Suite #3 in D</i> (Bach)	Rich
	* Please stand as you are able.	

Grow — Pray — Study

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

Monday, December 19 — Genesis 15:1-6

An encounter with the living God is a life-changing event. It can be frightening and scary. It produces anxiety and is quite often a threat to the status quo. This is why many encounters with God begin with some version of, *"do not be afraid."* Abram's encounter with God in Genesis 15 is one example. What God asks of Abram is definitely life changing and requires Abram to trust in God's faithfulness.

- Have you ever been afraid to do something that God has asked you to do? What has helped you learn to trust God in these kinds of situations?
- Prayer: *Covenant God, grant me the courage I need to believe you and trust in your faithfulness. Grant me the gift of faith so that I will serve you with confidence. Amen.*

Tuesday, December 20 — Exodus 14:10-14

As the Israelites prepared to cross the Red Sea, they saw the Egyptian army advancing and complained to Moses. They were afraid to move forward and preferred the security of their slavery because their future (in the wilderness) seemed so uncertain. Moses' response served as both a word of challenge and word of comfort. His message was simple: *"do not be afraid"* because God is on your side.

- What is fear preventing you from doing today? What will help you move forward?
- Prayer: *God of Grace, too often I would rather look back than move forward in faith. Forgive me for not trusting that you will be with me during every step of my journey. Amen.*

Wednesday, December 21 — Isaiah 41:8-10

The prophet, Isaiah, echoes the words of God to Abram (Genesis 15:1) and the words of Moses to the Israelites (Exodus 14:13). The people of God have been called to be God's servant, to be a blessing to the world. But serving God in the world is not easy. God has high expectations. Fear is a natural, human response to God's call.

- If you are afraid to answer God's call and serve God today, recite and remember these words: *"do not fear, for I am with you"* (Isaiah 41:10).
- Prayer: *Almighty God, thank you for calling me to be your servant. Too often, however, I let fear keep me from going where you send me. Fill me with your confidence today. Amen.*

Thursday, December 22 — Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's Gospel describes the angel Gabriel's encounter with Joseph in a dream. When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, he planned to quietly dismiss her; but Gabriel appeared to him and told him about God's plan for salvation through Mary's baby. Joseph needed Gabriel's encouragement to follow through with his plan to take Mary as his wife.

- If Gabriel visited you today, how might he complete this sentence for you: *"do not be afraid to _____"*?
- Prayer: *God of Salvation, thank you for sending Jesus to be my Savior. Prepare my heart to welcome him. Grant me faith to trust him and courage to follow him. Amen.*

Friday, December 23 — Jeremiah 1:1-8

Like most humans who are called by God, Jeremiah did not believe that he was worthy of or capable of doing what God asked of him. He believed he was too young to be God's servant and spokesman. But God dismissed Jeremiah's fears of youth and inadequacy with these words: *"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you"* (Jeremiah 1:8).

- What are your favorite excuses for not answering God's call? What do you think God wants to say to you today?
- Prayer: *Merciful God, I have many excuses for not answering your call. I have many doubts and fears; but you call me anyway. I will go where you send me. Amen.*

Saturday, December 24 — Luke 2:1-20, Luke 5:1-11

Luke's account of Jesus' birth includes the familiar words of the angel, *"Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people"* (Luke 2:10). In order for us to understand why Jesus' birth is Good News, we need to know the whole story of Jesus' life, including his death and resurrection. To truly experience the Good News of salvation, we need to be Jesus' disciples.

- As you celebrate Jesus' birth today, welcome the Savior of the world into your heart, let go of your fear, and answer Jesus' call to follow him — wherever he leads you.
- Prayer: *God of Wonders, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for coming into the world to save the world. Thank you for coming into my life. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

Nursery on Sundays

Masks are optional for everyone who is fully vaccinated. 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. Contact Jim Wilson for log in link. 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 10 a.m. Meeting ID: 875 6105 5580

This Week at Trinity on TV

Our sermons air on Fairfax Public Access Channel 36 (on Cox and Verizon) on Wednesdays at 5 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 7 a.m.

Our Prayer List

Aidan, Alan, Alex & Sarah, Amanda, Amber & Briana, Andy, Annie Ruth, Bea, Becky, Boris, Carolyn, Danny, Davey, Dobson family, Dylan, Earl & Mary Lou, Evey, Green family, Gwyn, Ingrid, Jackie, Jessica, John, Junil, Karen, Karyn, Katherine, Kathleen, Kathy, Laddye, Linda, Lisa, Lizzie, Marcy, Maria, Marilu, Meak family, Mendez family, Mickey, Peggy, Rasmussen family, Roberto & Erica, Roger, Sandy & Vinnie, Scott, Shadle family, Susan, Tatiana, Teresa, Tom, Tracy, Vicki, and Yancey, Trinity's children, youth and volunteers, Trinity Preschool, those who mourn, the homeless, racial reconciliation in our country, those affected by natural disasters, violence and political turmoil around the world.

We extend **sympathy** to the family of Eunice Shadle. Eunice died on December 12. At 101 years old, Eunice was our oldest member. A service to celebrate her life will be held at Trinity on Thursday, December 29 at 12 p.m., preceded by a visitation at 11 a.m., also at the church.

We also extend **sympathy** to former Trinity youth director, Andrea Rasmussen and her sons Thor and Erik on the Dec. 9 death of her husband and their father, Mark Rasmussen. There will be a visitation this afternoon from 2 to 4 and from 5 to 7 at Demaine Funeral Home in Fairfax. A funeral service will be held on Monday, Dec. 19 at Truro Anglican Church, also in Fairfax.

Today's hymn texts for those worshipping at home.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: Refrain)
3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: (Refrain)
4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: (Refrain)

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)
4. See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

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.



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, **Jan. 10** at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. New readers are always welcome. More at <https://umtrinity.org/education>. Contact Kathy Maher, kathyngs@gmail.com, for more.

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.



Crafts for a Cause

We meet every other Monday from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in Room 124: Dec. 19. No crafting experience is needed and all are welcome. If you'd like to sign up, please email **Alesha Luxon** at alesha.luxon@gmail.com.

Fellowship

Fellowship hosts provide snacks during Fellowship following the Sunday morning worship services. Please consider signing up for a week. The sign up is on a white board sitting on top of the coffee bar in the Fellowship Lobby. Contact Alesha Luxon (alesha.luxon@gmail.com).

Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

Next meeting: Jan. 8: 4:30 - 6 p.m. Register at <http://bit.ly/youthreg22> For more information about volunteering with youth or joining youth group, contact Catherine Wethington (umtrinityyouth@gmail.com).

Coming Up

December

- 17 Celtic Service of Hope
- 19 Crafts for a Cause
- 24 Christmas Eve: 5, 8 & 11 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day, 10:30 a.m. only
- 26 Office Closed
- 29 Celebration of Life: E.unice Shadle, 12 p.m.

January

- 1 New Year's Day, 10:30 a.m. only
- 2 Office Closed
- 2 Crafts for a Cause
- 10 Book Chat
- 16 Office Closed
- 16 Crafts for a Cause
- 21 Christ House
- 29 Celtic Service
- 29 Crafts for a Cause

Sermon Series:

Listen to the Angels

Every year we read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth and enter the story of Mary and Joseph. We are amazed at the miracle of salvation that comes through the birth of Jesus. We worship with the shepherds and join the wise men as they follow the star to meet the newborn King. Throughout the story of Christmas, angels guide us along the way. The Gospel writers tell us what happened in the first Christmas; *the angels tell us what it means*. Join us during Advent and Christmas at Trinity as we **Listen to the Angels** and hear the Good News once again.

Confirmation Class

Youth (grades 7-12) are invited to join our 2023 Confirmation Class. It will meet on **Sundays, 4-5 p.m. beginning January 8** and run through the end of May. In order to mature in their own faith journey, the confirmands will explore what the Bible teaches us, what it means to follow Jesus, and how we serve God as members of Trinity United Methodist Church. Pastor Anne Hough will serve as this year's lead teacher. There will be a confirmation Kick Off for confirmands, parents, and faith friends on January 8 at 4 p.m., mark your calendars! Register at <http://bit.ly/youthreg22> or scan the QR code.

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.

Trinity Church Staff

Neil Hough
Eileen Gilmer
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Jose Nuñez
Jerry Rich
Emily Yosmanovich
Catherine Wethington
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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. Sermons air on Fairfax Public Access Channel 36 (on Cox and Verizon). Tune in Wednesdays at 5 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 7 a.m.



Christmas Traditions

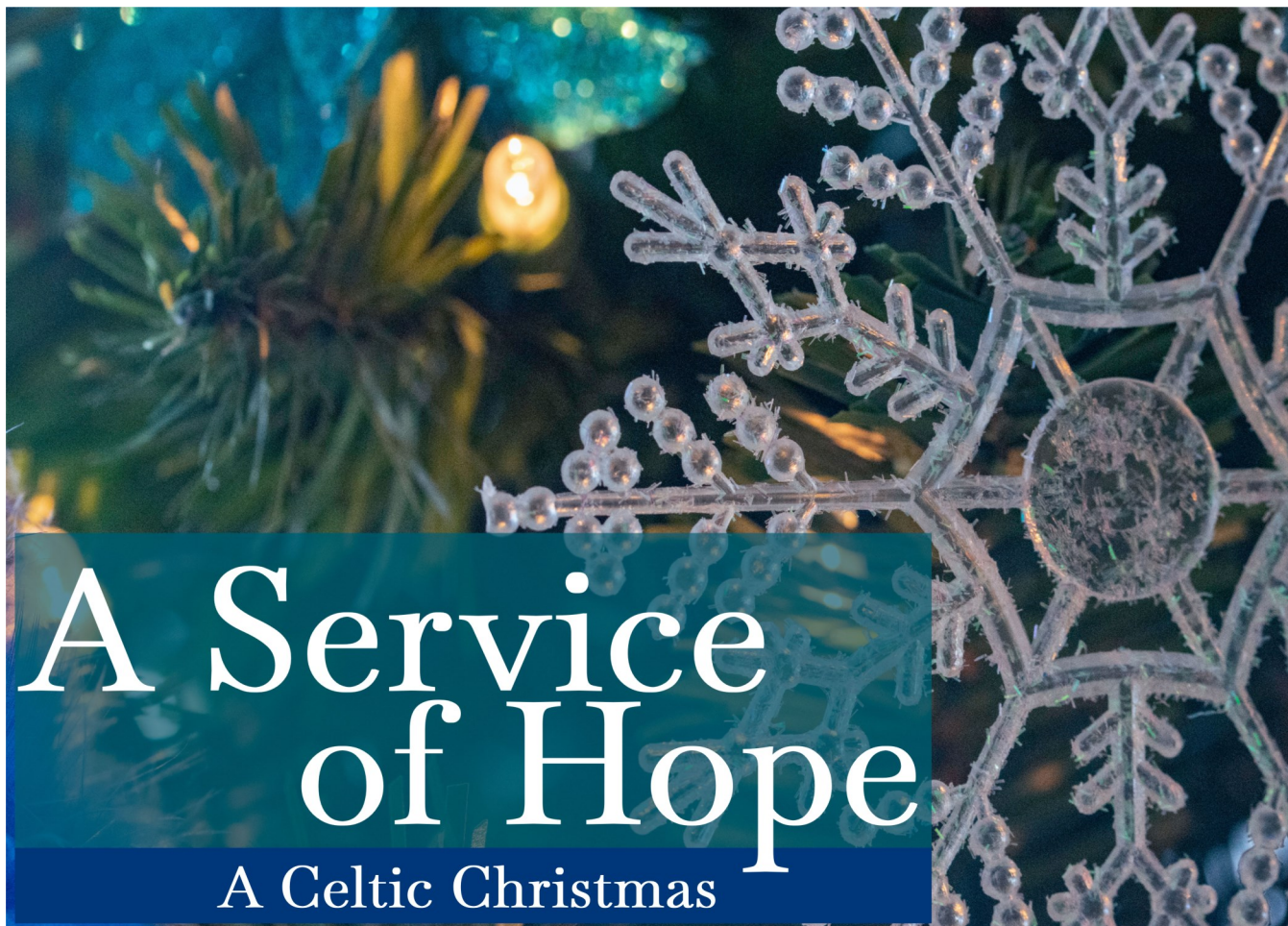
An Advent Study with Anne Hough

Advent Study

Do you know the difference between a Christmas tree, a Chrismon tree and a Jesse tree? Have you ever wondered what all the Christmas decorations and customs mean? What about Santa, carols, the 12 days of Christmas, Rudolph, wassailing or the nine lessons and carol service? Join Anne Hough for the Advent study on Tuesday morning at 10:30 and Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Tuesday morning's class will be hybrid (in-person in the Library and Zoom). Wednesday evening class will be on Zoom. The study ends this week.

Sponsor a Child

You will find a tree in the Narthex full of bell ornaments. Each ornament includes a biography of a child living at Heart to Heart Children's Village in Honduras. Please take an ornament so you can sponsor a child through prayers, a letter, and gifts. There are also sponsorship instructions on the back of the ornament. Each ornament can be untied so that the child's photo and biography can be pulled out to read. This tree will be available through the season of Advent.



A Service of Hope

A Celtic Christmas

Today

5 p.m. on YouTube and Facebook



*Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV

Christmas Eve at Trinity

(Saturday, December 24)

5 p.m. Family Service

8 p.m. Traditional Candlelight & Communion

11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight & Communion

Christmas Day at Trinity

(Sunday, December 25)

10:30 a.m. Worship