

Called to Gift



Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community
called by a challenging and progressive faith
to live lives of love and justice

Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

Participant ID (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**
Meeting Password: **760760**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

With Music

Lo, How a Rose, E'er Blooming

German 15th Century
Theodore Baker
Arr Mark Hayes

With Meditation

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*Please stand in body or spirit

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

(adapted) Marcia McFee

For all who search for a place to belong;
For all who are frightened by imposing forces;
For all whose future seems uncertain;
For all who are weary and yearn for calm and reliable rest;

We light this candle of Hope for those who need it most.

**Here, at the nativity of your birth,
give us the courage to face this moment
with humility and hope.**

**Open us to new understandings of
the unfolding story of your presence among us.
Show us the true meaning of the kingdom on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**We pray in the name of the Child,
the One Who Reigns in our hearts and lives.
Amen.**

*HYMN

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus #122

(see insert)

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We share "happenings" in the community and lift up concerns for prayer.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES

Reading from the Prophet
Reading from the Letters

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14 CEB

Sermon

Source of Hope

Rev. Edmonds

Hymn of Response

What Child Is This

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(adapted) Kate Bowler

A Blessing for Beginning Again in Advent

God, could this be the year when we see it?
The goodness that is coming, like starlight from a distant time?
Could this be the Advent when we sense it?
That the springtime of the soul will one day last forever?

**Could this be the Advent when we notice
the inbreaking of your coming promises?**

Promises full of blessing:

of truth so clear, so bright

that every shadowy lie must flee away.

Of compassion so deep, so strong

that everyone is encircled in its embrace.

Of restoration so complete, so beautiful

that there is gladness everywhere.

And of justice so satisfying and so right, that all will be well.

**May this Advent be the new beginning, as we learn to live by the light of
your coming promises. Glimpsing the world through tears, while also
seeing something sacred shining through, too.**

Our Truth. Our Light. Our Promise Incarnate. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

What Child is This?

Trad English Melody

Arr Marianne Kim

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN

O How Shall I Receive You #102

(see insert)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Roland H. Pritchard
Arr Marianne Kim

WELCOME!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity during this Advent Season. If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. We hope you find this a welcoming community for people of all ages and stages of life.

If you have any questions about the church, feel free to ask Pastor Dale!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

847-722-6756
PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Acting Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

Acting Office Manager

Heather Hughes

Lay Officers

Council President

Treasurer

Church Email

Church Office Telephone

Church Office Hours

Church Website

Scott Peterson
Karen Kerschke
tuccdf@gmail.com
847-945-5050
Tue.-Wed. 9-12
trinitydeerfield.org

Prayer Concerns

Paula Blanchard, cousin of Jean Harris, who has had a recurrence of brain cancer
Walter Eduardo Jimenez and all those now living in fear...

Joyce Black, friend of Marge Magnani

Prayers for wisdom and trust for father and son Manuel Lomeli and Alex Lomeli,
each of whom is dealing with serious heart health issues

Prayers of celebration for Peter & Barbie Reynolds, friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who
were released by the Taliban in Afghanistan and are now living in England

Jim Litchfield in his extended recovery from back surgery

David Bunce and Steve Schoonmaker, two friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who are both
struggling with cancer

Dorothy Collins

Carol Wells in her season of grief

The Family of Adrienne Mazura, friend of Lucy, who succumbed to breast cancer

Bill and Roseann Stenzel

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Skip Hahn

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents
in Puerto Rico

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

***Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025

Matthew 24:36-44

Called to Gift

The season of Advent has begun. Four weeks till the birth of Christ. Four weeks of journeying to Bethlehem. Four weeks of lighting candles around the Advent wreath.

I love this season that begs for us to turn our back on the commercial frenzy of the holiday so that we can embrace the spiritual practices of slowing down and, as Matthew's Gospel tells us, learn to be "watchful" for we do not know when the Son of Man will return.

I will admit that I am an advocate for Advent. But no matter how hard I try to do the holidays differently than those around me, I get sucked into the busyness. And if there is one thing that I really dislike the most about this time of year, it's the gift giving.

Now before I am labeled a Grinch — or worst yet, a Scrooge — let me explain. My anxiety with Christmas gifts stems from the fact that I never have any idea what to get those I love. I envy those who know just what trinket would make their spouse, friend, or child smile.

Last year, I was especially drawing a blank as to what to get my father. Then two days before December 25, I remembered the jar of homemade mincemeat I had in my cupboard. I then remembered how much my father loved mincemeat pies.

I had an epiphany. I would make him a pie. The choice of this gift felt so right. I was excited to prepare it, imagining the joy on his face when I gave it to him. And the day I gave it to him, his expression of joy was better than I imagined.

I realized then that being a good gift giver is all about being attentive to others — to borrow from Matthew, being "watchful" — and truly learning how to listen.

Gift giving isn't hard when you realize gifts are all around you.

There's a term in the Church that I happen to love, especially this time of year when we might be struggling with our Christmas shopping lists. It's "called to gift." At first glance, it might seem grammatically incorrect. Called to do what? Gift?

But "called to gift" reminds us to take the spiritual gifts we have been given by God and share them with others. We are called to gift the world with the light that shone that holy night. We are called to gift strangers with adoration just like the Magi bestowed on Jesus. We are called to gift our loved ones with the same song of peace and good will that the angels sang announcing the babe's birth.

What are you being "called to gift" this season?

God, as the season of Advent begins, we remember how out of great love for us you gave us Jesus. That is the most amazing gift we have ever received. Help us now to share that gift of love with others. Help us to become amazing gift givers of your Spirit, Word and Truth. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo-ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716)
from *Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715*
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

O How Shall I Receive You

102

*Paul Gerhardt, 1653**Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; alt.*

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;
 3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,

blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
 Melchior Teschner, 1615