



*We have all received,
grace upon grace*

JOHN 1:16

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Ms. Karen Karosas, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

Prayer As You Enter : *Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

- Share God's love with our community*
- Serve God's children*
- Bring healing and wholeness to those in need*
- Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study*

BY YOUR SILENCE OTHERS MAY HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Arise, shine; for your light has come; and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Lift up your eyes and look around; sons and daughters gather together, they come to you.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

We live as if Christ had never been born.

We abuse the privileges that are ours as children of God.

Let us confess our sins before God in silent prayer.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess in the presence of God and one another.

God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Let us pray the collect together.

Light of the world, whose coming reordered human priorities, dwell with us here, that your Word may refresh us and your truth remold us. Reveal your will to us in ways we cannot escape or ignore. Deepen our respect for your law and our faithfulness to the truth we encounter in Jesus Christ. May your Word run swiftly through this congregation with life-changing power. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALTER

Psalms 147:12-20

Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

He hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before his cold?

He sends out his word and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the Lord!

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 1:1-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

Pastor Rankin

“The Word Became Flesh to Reveal God’s Light & Love!”

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In ancient days, you created us in your image to be reflections of your glory. When we fell short and dimmed the brilliance of your light shining through us, you held our hands and walked with us out of the garden into all the corners of the earth. When we are afraid to look upon your glory, you came as a quiet traveler, as a burning bush, and as a pillar of light. You called us to be people of light, to walk no longer in darkness, and always, you light our way. Even when we walk in darkness, you shine your light and offer your grace, awaiting our return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to reveal your glory and grace. And so, with your people on earth and all the angels in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements at the back of the sanctuary and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. **Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.**)*

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

O God, you reveal yourself in this congregation. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, micro-organisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by his goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers and the Worship Aids are given by the Hambrick-Stowes, as the church looks to 2025 with Christmas hope, peace, joy, and love, and faith in Jesus Christ, “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev. 1:5).

Ministering Today

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector	Rev. Sandy Morris
Money Counters	Bud & Kathy McCarty, Jeff Hackenberger, John Shelsky
Altar Guild	Karen Olley, Beth Bossert
Building Trustee	Mike Wagner
Koinonia	Paula Dennes
Ministries	Card Christian Education (Sue Bowman) Called to Care Anne Rankin Visitation Sue Bowman

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Today	After 10:30 AM Service-Church Undecorating
Monday	7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 PM - Bells
Wednesday	9:30 AM - Stewardship
Thursday	10:00 AM – Mercersburg Study Group 6:00 PM – Parish Life 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts
Friday	10:00 AM – Evangelism 11:30 AM-1:00 PM – Preschool Lunch Bunch
Saturday	7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM – Worship

Happy Birthday

Monday – Koen Miller, Nancy Musser

Tuesday – Shelby DeLong, Harry Himelwright, Delaney Minder

Wednesday – Rick Mowrer

Saturday – Samantha DeLong, Mark Eyer

Attendance for Sun., December 29

7:45–8 10:30–64 TOTAL – 72

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Peter Rohrer

Pat Seachrist

Don & Pat Miller

Rhonda Hartenstine

The Lehman family

Donna Wolf & Family

Sam Minder III

Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser

Kathleen Sensenig Adams

Kelsey Minnich Burgo

Ron Becker

Arlene Hoxworth

Betty Fogle

Denise Huggins

Janice Jenkins

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Mid Gockley

Joann Peck

Mary Lou Shaab

George & Ellie Latsha

Erika Otthofer

Donna Zirkel

Betty Tyndall and family

Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline

Joann & Dawn Garvin

Mary Lou Sturgis

Autumn Shenk

Bob & Marlyn Wible

Betsy Bailey

Jodi Keller

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

Scott & Jane Owens

Carmen & Jerry Richards

Lainie Christensen

Hank Fox

Danielle Huggins Holbein

Michael McDonough

Rev. Ken & Marilyn Trauger

Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

John Shelsky

Ron & Donna Denlinger

Himelwright Family

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Family of Phil Morgan (LVC Professor Emeritus of Music/Friend of Trinity)

Family of Delores Kurkowski (sister of Pat Seachrist)

Family of Rose Heckel (sister of Mid Gockley)

Ryan Dennes (son of Paula Dennes)

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)

Rev. Pam Illick (pastor of Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg)

Nancy Scholl (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

David Haverstick (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

Dan Congelton (friend of Nancy Enders)

Audria Husted (granddaughter of Chuck & Sue Husted)

Cindy Greiman (friend of Betty Fogle)

Carmen Sweigert (friend of Rhonda Hartenstine)

Glenn Wible (nephew of Bob & Marlyn Wible/cousin of Lon Wible)

Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)

Carol Hooper (sister of Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen)

Marlene Harlow (friend of Gail Kogut)
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Kaitlyn, Ben, and Lucy Miller (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)
Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)
The Herr Family (Former Trinity Preschool Family)
Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong)
Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)
David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)
Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)
Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)
Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)
Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)
Harvey Sick (friend of Judy Chapman)
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)
James Malone & family
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)
Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton
World Peace

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: There will be a special Epiphany program today at 9:00 a.m. in Isenberg Hall!

CHURCH UNDECORATING SCHEDULED: Please plan to stay after the 10:30a.m. service TODAY to help remove and pack up Christmas decorations from the interior of the church. The exterior decorations will be removed later this week. Thank you in advance for your assistance in packing up decorations in preparation for next year!

THE JANUARY PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS are due to the church office by January 10!

THE MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST MEETING will be held at the Family Fare Restaurant on January 18 (weather permitting) at 8:00 AM. This is open to all men of the congregation! You are encouraged to invite other men to the breakfast.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The Knit in God's Love Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting on January 21 at 1:00 p.m. and will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.



THURSDAY, January 23, 1:30 PM
Sign-up sheet on table outside office

DEVOTIONALS: The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

2024 CELEBRATION: Join us after the 10:30 service on January 26 for a luncheon and celebration of our ministry in 2024. The Parish Life Committee is planning a short program as we look back over the past year in our annual reports and through a video slideshow. Look for more details about the luncheon in the bulletins. A sign-up sheet will soon be available on the table across from the church office.

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP happens every Sunday in Isenberg Hall at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments. The drinks/coffee will be taken care of for you! The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **January 12 & 19.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **January 12 & 19.** The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.



LEADERSHIP SEMINAR: The Pastor/Parish Committee is working with Deaconess Myka Kennedy Stephens to provide a leadership seminar on conflict management. The seminar will be held on **Saturday, February 1 from 9:00-11:30 a.m.** This is for members of Consistory and the various committees/boards. **Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office. It is imperative that you sign-up because participants will be asked to do an online survey before the meeting.** Myka Kennedy Stephens is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, Emory University, and Florida State University. She is a Deaconess in the United Methodist Church and a former professor and librarian at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Deaconess Stephens is now working with individuals and congregations as a leadership consultant.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SUPPORT: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SUPPORT: We continue to support the medical mission project that was presented on Rally Day by Donna Geisler and her brother-in-law, Dr. Bill Lovett. Look for the display across from the church office. There are cans for you to place monetary



FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of
the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the
earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong
for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height
of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness
of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness
for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

or Sirach 24:1-12 [not printed]

Psalm 147:12-20

or Wisdom 10:15-21

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

[not printed]

GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

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