



*To you
is born this day
a Savior*

LUKE 2:11

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org

E-Mail: secretary@trinityeastpete.org

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 and SOT Choir Director

Mr. James Landis, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

Celebrating 175 Years: Honoring Our Heritage, Moving Forward in Faith!

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:30 P.M.

SILENT REFLECTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shine in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

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 again in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book.

PRELUDES

The Wexford Carol - Irish Folk Melody

Arr. D. Slechta

Vocal Soloist - Michael Slechta, Cello - Dina Slechta

O Come, All Ye Faithful Traditional

Arr. Ruth L. Zimmerman

The First Noël - Traditional

Arr. Ruth L. Zimmerman

O Sanctissima - Sicilian Mariner's Hymn

Arr. Ruth L. Zimmerman

Joy To The World - Handel

Arr. Ruth L. Zimmerman

Trumpets: Deb & Mike Lichtenwalner

Violins: Sue Bowman, Jeff Hackenberger, Denise Pfeiffer

Viola: Anne Rankin, Cello: Dina Slechta, Bass: Michael Slechta

Noël Grand Jeu et Duo

Louis-Claude Daquin

Organist: James Landis

COMING FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

THE PROPHETIC WORD

Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick Stowe

Isaiah 9:2-7; 60:1-3

MEMBERS OF THE SOUND OF TRINITY CHOIR

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam/Slechta

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM and CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Come to the light.

We are weary of darkness.

The light brings us life.

We are weary of darkness.

The light fills our souls.

We will walk in God's freedom and light.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 112

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

LET THE CHILDREN COME/LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

On this Christmas Eve we are gathered as God's people to celebrate again what Christ's coming means to the world.

We join with Christians all over the world who are celebrating tonight.

Hear these words from the Prophet Isaiah: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6 NRSV)

Throughout this Advent season, we have been reminded of what the good news means to us: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Tonight we light the Christ candle, as we think about what Christ's coming means to each one of us. Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we here on earth may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE** (see page10)

St. Luke 2:1-7

Jeff Hackenberger**CHOIR ANTHEM***Glory to the Lamb!***Music by Don Besig****Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price**

When Mary rocked that tiny baby that night in Bethlehem, angels sang “Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb.”

Refrain:

All the angels sang “Glory, glory to the Lamb,”

Oh yes, the angels sang “Glory, glory to the Lamb.”

When Mary rocked that tiny baby that night in Bethlehem,

All the angels sang “Glory, glory, glory. Hallelujah to the Lamb.”

Refrain

Shepherds on the hillside were keeping watch at night.

An angel came upon them, and the sky was filled with light.

“Joyful news we bring you,” the heavenly angel said,

“You’ll find a little baby fast asleep in a stable in Bethlehem!”

Refrain

In a lowly stable they found the tiny babe.

The Lamb of God was sleeping in a manger filled with hay.

One bright star was shining in heaven high above,

They gathered all around to welcome Him, the little child of peace and love.

Refrain

Glory Hallelujah to the little Lamb!

“Glory To The Lamb” Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music by Don Besig © 1996 GlorySound a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc. CCLI License # 11083455

St. Luke 2:8-14

Steve Gold**HYMN***Angels We Have Heard on High***No. 105**

HYMN *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (verses 1-4)* No. 106

MEDITATION "Come to Bethlehem!" Pastor Rankin

HYMN *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (verses 5&6)* No. 106

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Greensleeves* Richard Purvis

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

OFFERING RESPONSE *These Gifts, O Lord, We Offer*
words by Pastor Rankin

The musical score is written for voice and piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "These gifts, O Lord, we of - fer, These gifts, O Lord, we of -". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system continues the vocal line with "fer, With cheer - ful a - do - ra - tion, Praise to the Lord." and concludes with a final piano accompaniment chord.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, on this Christmas night, we offer ourselves and our gratitude in remembrance for your gracious presence in our lives and in our world. Be born in us anew, and shine your light through these gifts we now bring. Surround us with your glory, that we, like the shepherds long ago, might sing your praises and reveal your grace in all we say and do. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

HYMN

Silent Night

No. 101

Please stand when all candles are lit.

The pastor will direct you to raise your candle at the beginning of the fourth verse.

SCRIPTURE READING

St. John 1:1-14 Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe

Please extinguish your candles

HYMN

Joy to the World!

No. 120

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

In darkness we arrived.

In light we now leave.

Though once we stumbled,

we now walk with confidence.

Rise up and go, for the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

May the light of Christ lead us for evermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Gloria"

Jason D. Payne

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

The Chancel Flowers are given by Cherie Cataldi in memory of my wonderful father, Bob Price. We love you and so miss your smile, laugh, and hugs!

The Worship Aids are given by Charlene Cristy. Merry Christmas wishes.

Ministering Tonight

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Readers Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe, Jeff Hackenberger, Steve Gold, Anne & Andrew Rankin, Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe

Ushers/Greeters Mark & Chris Eyer, Anne & Andrew Rankin, Kathy McCarty, Charlene Cristy

Acolyte Zach Baynard

Thank you to all who are assisting with our service this evening! A special thanks to all of the musicians for sharing their gifts with us tonight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We invite everyone to join us for our **Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion at 10:30 p.m.** Prelude music will begin at 10:20 p.m.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on December 25!

DECEMBER 31 SCHEDULE: We will continue to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 31:

7:45 a.m. Service of Word & Sacrament

9:45 a.m. Special Koinonia in Isenberg Hall

10:30 a.m. The Festival of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NORTH WINDOW is given in memory of Leon L. & Ethel Gruber by son Greg, daughter Sharon Armstrong, and granddaughter Jessica.

THE CHRISMON TREE: The Chrismons on the small tree in the stairwell were made by the late Edythe Geib. Several people have asked about the Chrismon tree. The term "Chrismon" comes from the Latin "Christi monnogramma" which simply means "monogram of Christ". Therefore, a Chrismon is a Christian symbol that represents Christ. There is a descriptive list of the various Chrismons next to the tree.

THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Grace M. Dodson (mother) and Dolores A. Dodson (aunt) of Donna Wolf, given by the family and friends. The candle stand and wreath are in memory of S. Leona Wolf, mother of the late John Wolf.

THE PEW CANDLE HOLDERS, made by John Barr, were given by John and Dolly Barr.

THE NATIVITY SCENE ON THE FRONT LAWN was made by Mike Wagner.

THE CRECHE ON THE LOWER LEVEL BY THE ELEVEATOR was made by Mike Wagner.

Nativity of Our Lord

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

Cover: *Madonna* by Daniel Bonnell. Copyright © Daniel Bonnell. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R



Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary!!

Name	# of flowers	In Honor /In memory of
John & Betsy Bailey	3	In memory of our daughter, Glenna Bishop.
		In memory of our dear friend, Ken Geib.
		In memory of our dear friend, Lee Bossert.
Beth Bossert	3	In memory of Sandy & Lee Bossert.
		In celebration & love of Lee Davis.
		In celebration & love of Bodhi Davis.
Sue Bowman	5	In honor of Trinity's 175 th Anniversary.
Roger & Mary Ann Bradley	1	In memory of our parents.
The Brennans	1	In honor of the youth of this church.
Joan Cash	2	In memory of C. L. Fountain.
		In memory of Ella M. Fountain.
Cherie Cataldi	2	In honor of my aunt, Dottie Schadt.
		In memory of my parents, Robert & June Price.
Nancy Crawford	2	In honor of Chris, Anne, Nikki, Heather, Tara, Quinn, Zach, Rachel, and Andrew.
		In memory of Keith G Rankin, Jackie Meisky, and John Meisky.
Mark & Chris Eyer	1	In memory of our parents.
Donna Geisler	1	In memory of my parents, Rev. George R. & Janice Geisler. Pastor Emeritus of Trinity UCC 1964-1989.
Greg Gruber	2	In memory of Leon & Ethel Gruber.
Jeff Hackenberger	1	In memory of parents & brother.
Charles & Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe	2	To the glory of God With Us, Immanuel.
Jackey Hoover	2	In honor of Pastor Chris & Trinity UCC.
		In memory of my husband, Nowell.
Robert & Hedwig Hunsicker	2	In memory of our parents.
Chuck & Sue Husted	7	In memory of Gail Boettger
		In memory of our friends.
		In honor of grandchildren & great grandchildren.
		In memory of their son, Christopher Husted.
		In memory of their grandson, Gabryl Husted.
		In memory of our parents.
		In honor of our grandchildren & great grandchildren.

<i>Miyah, Hannah, Ashton, Jayson</i>		In honor of Stan & Pat Seachrist.
Chuck & Gretchen Leinbach	2	In memory of our parents, Marvin & Marilyn Roth.
		In memory of our parents, Randy & Betsy Leinbach.
Members of Trinity (white poinsettias)	1	In honor of Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin.
	1	In honor of Michael Slechta, Director of Music & SOT Choir Director.
	1	In honor of Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant.
	1	In honor of Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director.
	1	In honor of James Landis, Interim Organist.
Jack & Karen Olley	1	In honor of our family.
Don & Denise Pfeiffer	3	In memory of William & Mary Jane Montgomery.
		In honor of our wonderful granddaughters.
		In memory of Joseph & Gloria Pfeiffer.
John & Sarah Paulukow	2	In honor of our granddaughters, Elle & Marley West.
		In thankfulness for all our lectors.
Pastor Chris & Anne Rankin	4	In honor of Zachary, Rachel, and Andrew.
		In memory of loved ones.
Jerry & Carmen Richards	1	In honor of our family.
Rev. Harry G. Royer	7	In honor of Donna Zirkel.
		In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Wagner.
		In memory of parents.
		In memory of sister, Joan Sleet.
		In memory of Harriet Confair.
		In memory of Sister Theresa Joseph Lazur.
Dottie Schadt	2	In honor of Cherie Cataldi.
		In memory of Jere & Kevin Schadt.
Pat & Stan Seachrist	2	In honor of our daughters, Cindy & Debbie.
		In memory of our parents.
Autumn & Steve Shenk	1	In memory of Lenora & Lee Williams (Autumn's parents) & Helen & Amos Shenk (Steve's parents).
Mike & Shelley Wagner	2	In memory of Helen Wagner (Mike's mother).
		In memory of Virginia Myers (Shelley's mother).
Phyllis & Ken Zimmerman	3	In thanksgiving for God's healing hand upon us this year.
Donna Zirkel	2	In memory of my husband, Paul.
		In memory of all my loved ones.

The Staff of Trinity U.C.C. wishes you a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

