

To you is born
this day a Savior

LUKE 2:11



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

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 shines 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.

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.

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.

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



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

PRELUDES

The Wexford Carol - Irish Folk Melody Arr. Dina Slechta

Sussex Carol
Harriet Verrall Arr. Christy King, Michael, Theodore, and Dina Slechta

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen/Morrison's Jig
Traditional Arr. Celtic Martins/Christy King/Michael and Dina Slechta
Instrumental Ensemble:

Clarinets: Gretchen Leinbach, Pastor Chris Rankin
Violins: Sue Bowman, Jeff Hackenberger, Denise Pfeiffer
Cello: Dina Slechta, Bass: Michael Slechta

O Come, Little Children Traditional
Sunday School Opening Devotions Ringers and Singers

Allegro Vivace G. F. Handel

Organist: Karen Karosas

COMING FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

THE PROPHETIC WORD Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe

Isaiah 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 OPENING PRAYER

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

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us come to the Lord in prayer.

On this holy night, O God, we turn our hearts to you.

You are our hope, our light, and our salvation.

On this holy night, O God, we celebrate the joy of your coming, and yearn to be born anew.

On this holy night, O God, we celebrate the mystery of your coming, awed at how you humbled yourself to be with us.

On this holy night, O God, we welcome the Christ child:

born in a barn among animals, wrapped in bands of cloth, and laid in a feeding trough.

On this holy night, O God,

we rejoice in your Son, Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

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.

HYMN

Away in a Manger

No. 109

THE WORD OF GOD

THE PROPHETIC WORD

Isaiah 9:2-7

Ron Denlinger

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this

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

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 105

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

St. Luke 2:1-8

Anne Rankin

A Christmas Dialogue

Pastor Rankin & Jeff Hackenberger

(Written by the Rev. David Gockley. We are presenting this in memory of Rev. Gockley)

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

HYMN

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

No. 106

THE LITANY PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE IN WORD & SONG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Please kneel or bow reverently)

God of life, today the world is reborn with the birth of Jesus. We thank you for the gift of your Child, who came to show us your way.

Congregation sings: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1)*

No. 108

Loving God, you are the guardian of the poor. Many children are being born today in places no better than the stable in Bethlehem. We pray for them.

Congregation sings: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 2)*

No. 108

God of comfort, we thank you that we have a warm place to gather, and friends and family to care for us. We pray for all who are sick, in trouble, or afraid, that they may be healed and comforted.

Congregation sings: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 3)*

No. 108

God among us, in the birth of Jesus you show us the hope for the world. We pray for ourselves and for each other, that we may be filled with hope and new life, now and always.

Congregation sings: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 4)*

No. 108

Let us pray together.

Creating God, on this holy night we come to give thanks for your light. In spite of the depth of our darkness, in spite of the weight of our oppression, in spite of all barriers we put in your way, still your light shines. Tonight we celebrate the child born to us, the One we call Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. This child confounds us, for in his humility you declare authority, and in his weakness you declare power. Open our eyes once again to your ways, O God. In the name of your Son we pray. Amen.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

Born in Bethlehem

Words by John Parker , Music by David Lantz III

Where is He, born King of the Jews? In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem.
Shout it out! Go spread the news! He is born in Bethlehem.
Where did His mother lay her child? In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem.
Mary's baby, meek and mild; He is born in Bethlehem.
Born, born in Bethlehem, Son of God, Son of Man.
Let your sounds of praise begin, for Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Shepherds bowing at the sight in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem,
Worshipping the Son of light; He is born in Bethlehem.
Kings and wise-men from the East in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem,
From the greatest to the least; He is born in Bethlehem.
Born, born in Bethlehem, Son of God, Son of Man.
Let your sounds of praise begin, for Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Angels singing loud and strong in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem.
Join their festive joyous song! He is born in Bethlehem.
Born, born in Bethlehem, Son of God, Son of Man.
Let your sounds of praise begin for Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem,
Born in Bethlehem, born in Bethlehem!

"Born In Bethlehem" words by John Parker, music by David Lantz III © 2005 GlorySound/Shawnee Press. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-711879.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Khorurd Metz

Trad. Armenian Carol

(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. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The bass clef staff accompaniment is: G2 (quarter), B1 (quarter), D2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are: "These gifts, O Lord, we of - fer, These gifts, O Lord, we of-". The second system continues the melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The bass clef staff accompaniment is: G2 (quarter), B1 (quarter), D2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are: "fer, With cheer - ful a - do - ra - tion, Praise to the Lord."

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SILENT PRAYER and EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Go, singing a song to the God of our salvation. Sing of mighty deeds and glory.
Join the heavenly chorus and sing:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace.”

Sing of God’s salvation from day to day.

Jesus Christ is born today!

POSTLUDE

De Tierra Lejana Venimos

Trad. Puerto Rican Carol

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Bob and Hedwig Hunsicker** with gratitude to the Rankin family.

The Worship Aids are given by **Jerry & Carmen Richards** in honor of our family.

Ministering Tonight

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Assistants Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe, Ron Denlinger, Anne Rankin,
Jeff Hackenberger, Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe

Ushers/Greeters Zach Baynard, Andrew Rankin, Anne Rankin, Charlene Cristy,
Kathy McCarty

Acolyte Zach Baynard

DECEMBER 29 SERVICES: We will continue to celebrate Christmas this Sunday with two services at 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Both services will include Holy Communion. The 10:30 service is an adaptation of the Festival of Lessons & Carols at King’s College in Cambridge.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on December 25.

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No Sunday School classes on December 29! A Holiday Koinonia will be on Sunday at 9:45 a.m.!

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.

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 ELEVATOR was made by Mike Wagner.

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.

LANCASTER AGO CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN: DECEMBER 29, 3:00-5:00 PM
Christmas at the Organ, our annual Carol Sing, this year at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 409 Cherry St., Columbia 17512. The Midler-Hunter organ was installed in 1951, upgraded by Columbia Organ Works in 1997, and completely restored and expanded by Peragallo in 2017. The church is beautiful at Christmastime, and the acoustic of the room creates vibrant singing, making the Carol Sing one of the highlights of our year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
From the Staff of Trinity United Church of Christ





Christmas Poinsettias

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

Name	# of flowers	In Honor /In memory of
Betsy Bailey	2	In memory of my "daughter", Glenna Bishop
		In memory of my husband, John Bailey
Roger & Mary Ann Bradley	1	In honor of our family
Lily & Andrew Brennan	1	In honor of all our grandparents
Nancy Crawford	2	In honor of Chris, Anne, Nikki, Heather, Tara, Quinn, Zach, Rachel & Andrew
		In memory of Keith Rankin, Jackie Meisky and Johnnie Meisky.
Donna Geisler	1	In memory of my father, The Rev. George R. Geisler, Pastor Emeritus, Trinity UCC 1964-1989 & in memory of my mother, Janice "Danny" Geisler
Greg Gruber	2	In memory of Leon & Ethel Gruber
Jeff Hackenberger	2	In memory of parents & brother
Charles & Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe	4	To the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, Immanuel
Janet Harriger	2	In memory of my parents Dr. Miles Harriger & Dorothy J. Fasnacht
Hedwig & Bob Hunsicker	2	In memory of our parents: Verda & Paul Hunsicker, Madlene & Heinz Stege
Chuck & Sue Husted	7	In memory of Gail Boettger
		In memory of Linda Haines
		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, Hannah, Jayson</i>		In honor of Stan & Pat Seachrist
Members of Trinity	1	Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin, Pastor
Members of Trinity	1	Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant
Members of Trinity	1	Michael Slechta, Director of Music & SOT Choir Director
Members of Trinity	1	Amy Grube, Preschool Director
Members of Trinity	1	Karen Karosas, Organist
Members of Trinity	1	Michael Querry, Sexton
Jack & Karen Olley	2	In honor of our family
		In memory of our parents
John & Sarah Paulukow	2	In honor of St. Luke members that have become our church family
		In memory of all the special ones we have loved & lost

Denise Pfeiffer	2	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Montgomery
		In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ken Pfeiffer
Pastor Chris & Anne Rankin	3	In honor of Zachary, Rachel, and Andrew
Pastor Rankin	2	In honor of the Trinity Staff
		In honor of the Pastor Parish Committee
Jerry & Carmen Richards	1	In honor of our family
Dottie Schadt	2	In memory of Jere R. Schadt
		In memory of Kevin Schadt
Stan & Pat Seachrist	2	In honor of Sue & Chuck Husted
		In memory of deceased parents
Autumn & Steve Shenk	1	In memory of Lee & Lenora Williams (Autumn's parents), Helen & Amos Shenk (Steve's parents) & Jack Williams (Autumn's brother)



Geertgen tot Sint Jans,
The Nativity, at Night

*Light from Jesus in the manger illumines all who are present –
human, animal, and angel.*

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: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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