



**Trinity United Church
of Christ
“Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service”
Holy Communion
December 24, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

Lessons & Carols

**In-Person Worship
FB Live Streaming**

**The Mission of Trinity United Church of Christ:
*We exist to Love people where they are and
encourage them to grow in their relationship
with Jesus Christ.***

Meditation of the Day “Love is not merely the Christian duty;
it is the Christian destiny.” ~ N.T. Wright ~

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

*This is a Safe and Loving Place, a “Sanctuary” for
worship, praise, and reflection; and to remember that ‘No
Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life’s Journey,
You are Welcome Here!*

**Prelude- Meditation on “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
by Paul Fey played by Hannah Matthews**

Words of Welcome Pastor Katie

Announcements, Joys and Concerns Pastor Katie

***Call to Community**

Sue Myers

One: We waited.

All: **And imagined a savior.**

One: We imagined power.

All: **One like the world has but stronger and on our side.**

One: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

All: **We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

One: We imagined the work done for us through the
destruction of our enemies.

All: **We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to
seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

One: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

All: **Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!**

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you**

Pass a sign of God’s Peace to one another.

***Opening Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

#103 LC (verses 1, 3 & 4)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – the Christ Candle

The Nave Kulp Family

One: Emmanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our eyes to
the wonder of this night, that we might catch a glimpse of
your glory in the simplicity of these moments.

All: **May your light shine!**

(First advent candle is lit.)

One: Emmanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and soften our hearts to
the message of this hour, that we might turn toward you,
and have the way prepared in us for your coming.

All: **May your light shine!**

(Second advent candle is lit.)

One: Emmanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our minds to truly listen to all who speak and sing this evening, that we might hear your voice cry out from many lips.

All: May your light shine!

(Third advent candle is lit.)

One: Emmanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and fill our spirits with the courage to admit when we are lost and the insight to recognize that we have been found.

All: May your light shine!

(Fourth advent candle is lit.)

One: Emmanuel, God-with-us, with eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full, we rejoice that you interrupt what we have in mind in order to bring into being something more than we dare imagine.

All: May your light shine! Amen.

(Center Christ candle is lit.)

Choral Response

**Advent song- "Christ, Be Our Light", Bernadette Farrell
(verse 5)**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Lesson **Isaiah 9:2-7** Sue Myers

Christ's birth foretold

Music "Joy to the World" #120 LC

Second Lesson **Isaiah 11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9**

Marissa & Nate Schultz

The peace Christ will bring is foretold

**Music All Is Well by Michael W. Smith & Wayne Kirkpatrick
arr. by Lloyd Larson**

Marge Bailey, MB Brainerd, Sylvia Calabrese, Shana Clark,
Tiffany Folk, & Amy Schultz

Third Lesson **Luke 1:26-35; 38** Amy Schultz

The Annunciation

Music "Away in the Manger" #124 NCH

Fourth Lesson **Luke 2:1; 3-7** Moriah Marr

The Birth of Christ

Music "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#121 LC (verses 1, 2, & 4)

Fifth Lesson **Luke 2:8-16** Ben Hamilton

The shepherds go to the manger.

Music "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" #106 LC

The Message **Of Inns and Mangers** *Pastor Katie*

Invitation to Generosity

***Choral Response "We Three Kings" (verse 1)**

(#172 Chalice)

***Blessing Our Gifts**

All: With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

One: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us open our hearts to the Spirit of Christ, born a long time ago, and born again this night, in our lives.

All: We open our hearts to God, the Christ birthing now in our lives, and to one another—precious embodiments of Your creation.

One: We give thanks.

All: We thank God with joy.

The Great Thanksgiving

One: God of humble births and the stars in the heavens, we thank You for Your persistent love for all creation. We thank You for those who can see You and make connections that lead toward meaning. We thank You for those who are wise—who will journey out to strange lands and unknown territories in search for truth or to bring justice. We thank You for Your way of breathing life into us, and of helping us to take deep breaths when we need them.

All: God of love, creativity, novelty, joy, meaning, peace and hope, in spite of all the challenges on earth and in our personal lives, we give thanks for Your persistence throughout the universe.

One: We rejoice in Your Word through Jesus the Christ, who was born humbly, who communed with those others called outcast, who lived a complex life that sought justice, who died unfairly, and whose Spirit lives among us still.

Remembrance

One: Remembering Your boundless love, we offer our praise and proclaim our faith:

All: Christ was born. Christ lived and died. Christ comes again and again into our lives.

One: God, we know that Your Spirit is poured on us and on these elements of bread and juice, and we pray that Your love, peace and justice in the world may be born through us.

All: All praise to You, rejoicing in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who lives among us, and the Holy Spirit, who binds us together in love. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Meal

Communion (instrumental – “O Holy Night”)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn: “Silent Night! Holy Night!” #117 LC**

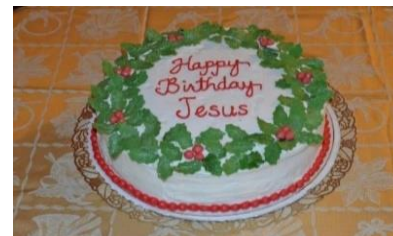
GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

***Benediction**

***Carrying the Light into the World**

***Prelude to Service: “Joy to the World”**

George Frideric Handel, adapt. Setting by James Marriott played by Hannah Matthews



“Please join us following worship tonight downstairs. For fellowship and to celebrate the birth of Jesus”

Worship Notes and Resources

Adapted from **Tim Graves, and posted on his blog LiturgyBits: Little bits for worship.** <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/>, https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/worship_resources/emmanuel-god-with-us/, <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Advent-4-C-December-19.rtf>, <https://processandfaith.org/holy-communion-service-for-christmas-eve/>

The music in our worship is reproduced via our One License number: A-725765.

Leadership

Katie Penick	Pastor
Hannah Matthews	Director of Music
Sue Myers	Lay Reader
Deb Persinger	Worship Committee
Sandy Sanders	
Hannah Matthews	
MB Brainerd	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for next week:

Dec. 29

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Carol hymn sing

Scrip Gift Cards

Please consider taking part in this program.

Orders go in the 1st Sunday of the month.

See Sue Myers for more information, 443-375-6788 or

wsmdem@comcast.net

Submission Dates for Bulletins/Newsletter

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday

February Newsletters - Monday, January 27

Meeting Dates by Zoom

Consistory – January 8 @ 6 pm

Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month @ 3:30.

Pastor Katie Sabbath Day will be on Fridays! She will not be available on that day. If there is an emergency text, her @ 240-418-8028

Budget Information:

Amount needed from all sources each week to meet our budget: \$2,436.00.

Giving for last week: \$3,480.35

Attendance: 33

Care Fund/Building: \$81.01

Please give in the various ways we offer for you to give your financial offerings to Trinity. We are lagging in our giving and hope that we can re-gain the generous level of giving we are accustomed to receiving.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns

Prayers are needed for our World at this difficult time and all those in need.

Prayer requests:

Lucy Brady

Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Brooks mom

Jeff Brooks and family by Leslie Brooks

Mike Brooks, cousin of Jeff Brooks

Janie Dell, friend of Karen Price

Joanna Garber

Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity

Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie

Bonnie and Norman Greenholtz

John Hansen
Janet Kelly
Ash Van Nuys
Leah, friend of Donna Alban
Freeman Palmer, CAC Conference Minister
Kathy Peters and family
Mary and George Pietsch
Wendi Saltsman, friend of Belva LaMotte
Mary Shaffer
Jean Simmons
Becky Smith, niece of Karen Price
Gina Tollini
Rev. Debra Wilcox
Family of Judi Wilcox
Shirley Wood



“the stories of our faith.”

Tuesday Bible Study at 10 am

also

Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.

@Trinity and by Zoom

Zoom links are available for all Bible Study

2nd Annual Epiphany Saturday

January 4, 2024 10am – 2pm

**Decorating Star Cookies, Nature Walk, Chalking the Doors,
Face Painting & Intergenerational Games, Lunch,
Meditation & Prayer, Trinity History**

(“Snow cancellation date” – Jan 11)



TRINITY T-SHIRT ORDERS

We are taking orders for our newly designed t-shirts!

Contact Sandy Sanders to place an order or with any questions

@ 443-974-6723 SIZING: Adult Sizes: S M L XL XXL

Youth Sizes: S M L XL

New Members Welcomed

Trinity will welcome new members to the church on Sunday **January 5**. Please let Pastor Katie know if you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity UCC.



Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen emergencies, the decision to close the church will be made two hours before worship/meetings/workday begin. You can find out whether or not the building will be open in the following possible ways:

1. Calling the church at 410 374-2727 (The voice mail message will reflect the decision to close or remain open.)
2. Checking your email. (Those with email will receive a message.)
3. Listening to WBAL 1090 AM
4. Receiving a call through the phone tree

Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

Pastor: the Rev. Katie Penick

Cell: 240-418-8028

E-mail: pastorkt143@gmail.com

Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net

Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

Vice President – Sandy Sanders

Secretary – Leslie Brooks

Treasurer – Sue Myers

