

**Trinity United Church
of Christ
“Second Sunday
of Advent”
December 8, 2024
10:30 a.m.**

Miracles, Signs and Wonders!

**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 “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” ~St. Teresa of Calcutta~

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: Instrumental Music
Performed by Hannah Matthews**

Words of Welcome Pastor Katie

Announcements, Joys and Concerns Pastor Katie

***Call to Community** Sue Myers
One: The day of the Lord brings grace and blessing.
All: **We come to this day with hearts prepared for
praising.**
One: The day of the Lord brings judgment and pardon.
All: **We come to this day with souls set on praying.**
One: The day of the Lord brings wisdom and light.
All: **We come to this day with minds eager to listen for
God’s will.**
One: In our praising, praying, listening, and responding,
All: **we come to worship God.**

***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: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”
#677 (Chalice)**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath – the Candle of Peace
The Clark Family**

One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God’s coming salvation. “See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?”

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of

Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.” (Malachi 3:1-4).

All: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God’s peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God’s grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God’s love throughout the earth..

One: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God’s reign comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Light two candles of the Advent wreath.

Choral Response

**Advent song- “Christ, Be Our Light”, Bernadette Farrell
(verse 2)**

A Story for the Child in All of Us

Children are dismissed for Children’s Church

***Gloria, Gloria (Taizé)’**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

First Reading Philippians 1:3-11 Sue Myers

“I thank my God every time I remember you”

Second Reading Luke 3:1-6 Pastor Katie

John the Baptist

The Message **Fire and Soap** *Pastor Katie*

***Hymn of Grace: “O God of Love, O God of Peace”
(#571 NCH)**

Invitation to Generosity

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Invitation

One: God of love and comfort, we gather together to celebrate one of the ministries of the Trinity Church. We give thanks for the opportunity – out of love and out of concern for our brothers and sisters – to share a tangible gift to those in need, the prayer blanket.

While we know that you are always present in our lives and that your love transcends all tragedy, illness and pain, we also know that sometimes a physical reminder can bring hope, healing and peace to someone who is crying out. We pray that these prayer shawls bring comfort to those who will receive them.

All: Oh God, open our eyes so that we might see, open our ears so that we might hear and open our minds so that we might know who is in need of your healing power and presence. Open our hearts so that we might reach out to them.

Affirmation of Our Ministries

One: Without even knowing who would receive it, this shawl was made specifically for the person who will receive it.

All: May they see the intricate love and care given to these shawls, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.

One: These shawls were made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

All: May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.

One: These shawls were made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

All: May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

This shawl was made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.

One: These shawls were made to remind the recipient that they are part of this community.

All: May they feel touched by our love, moved by our guidance and held up by our support.

Prayer of Blessing

One: God of creation, redemption and sustaining grace, we praise you for the opportunity to take part in this ministry so that we might see a world beyond ours. We thank you for putting those in need on our hearts and in our minds so that we might fully live out your call to love and serve. We ask that you bless these shawls and those who will receive them. May they feel the love, comfort and peace of your presence. And may your light shine in them and be a beacon of the hope that is promised to all of us. Amen.

Blessing

One: May the power of the Holy Spirit live and breathe within each one of us, through these shawls and through the lives that they will touch.

All: Shower us all with your loving grace, O God. Amen.

***Choral Response We Three Kings” (verse 1)
(#172 Chalice)**

***Blessing Our Gifts**

All: Covenantal God, we live into your promise to make our rough ways smooth:

**With each gift we grind.
With each talent we sand.
With each act we polish.**

**We have not smoothed our ways yet, Hopeful One,
but with your indefatigable guidance, we will yet, O God.
We will yet.**

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”
(#131 NCH)**

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

2025 BUDGET MEETING TODAY

We will be holding a brief congregational meeting today, immediately following the church service to discuss and vote on the 2025 financial budget.

***Benediction**

***Carrying the Light into the World**

***Prelude to Service:
Instrumental music by Hannah Matthews**

Worship Notes and Resources

Adapted from <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/caregiversunday10.pdf> <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Advent-2-C-December-5.rtf>,

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>

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 15= Joy (Lucy is preaching)

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
January Newsletters - Monday, December 16

Meeting Dates by Zoom

Consistory – January 8 @ 6pm
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: \$619.48

Attendance: 26

Care Fund/Building: \$35.00

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
Ken Plummer
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

**Sunday, December 15 please join us for
Fellowship following worship**



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



Adult Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
@Trinity and by Zoom

Studies that combine scripture and poetry
December - "The Poetry of Advent: An Advent Companion to
Mary Oliver's 'Devotions.'"

Zoom links are available for all Bible Study



Tuesday Bible Study at 10 am –
focus on how Jesus is introduced to us in each gospel
In person and zoom



Book Club returns for Advent!

We will read *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation* by Will Willimon
From the book cover: "In Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way!"

Please let Pastor Katie know if you are interested.



Trinity UCC Christmas Giving Tree

The holiday season is fast approaching; TUCC has plans to assist with help for families again this year. NESAP will be providing us with the needs of at least one family with younger children. Once we receive the information, we will have gift tags available for our congregation beginning **Sunday**,

November 17th with gift ideas for you to purchase, wrap and bring into church. NESAP recommends the cost of each gift should be around \$30.00. Please return wrapped gifts by **December 15th**. Place the gift tag you removed from the tree on the gift.

TUCC is a small and mighty church, and our congregation always finds a way to help families in need and for that we are blessed and thankful for bringing smiles and comfort to others during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. God Bless and thank you once again for your support. Contact Sandy Sanders with questions 443-974-6723.

Dec. 24 – Lessons & Carols

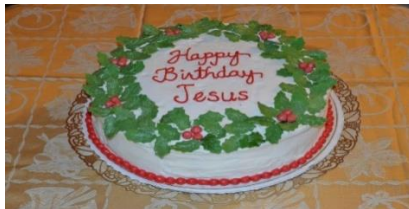
Christmas Eve Worship Service 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 29

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Carol hymn sing



"We will be having fellowship to celebrate the birth of Jesus, after the candlelight evening service on Tuesday December 24th"

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

Consistory President – Elwin Wagner

Vice President – Sandy Sanders

Secretary – Leslie Brooks

Treasurer – Sue Myers

