Trinity United Church of Christ
60 East High Street  Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  17325  717-334-7266
tuccgburg@gmail.com
www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org

Where God is Still Speaking!
Trinity United Church of Christ
December 19, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent
Lessons and Carols
9:30AM In-Person and Online Worship Service

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

We ask that you wear a mask while in the Church building.

* Congregational responses in **bold print.**
* Denotes standing as you are able.

**PRELUDE MUSIC**
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" – R. Willis
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" – T. Helmore
Flute Flock

**WELCOME/TIME OF SHARING**

* CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN #8 **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"** Red Booklet

**LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**
_The Candle of Love_
Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Love. Everything begins with Love. Everything continues with Love.
From the beginning of creation to the end of time,
God’s love colors everything.

Open your hearts to love and you will recognize hope shining in the most ancient of promises.
(The candle of Hope is lit)

Love. Everything continues with Love.
From strangers across oceans to neighbors next door,
God’s love dwells in everything.
Live love as a way of being and you will see peace shining
in each and every face that images: beloved.
(The candle of Peace is lit)

Love. Everything ends with Love.
From the most challenging struggle to the most wondrous delight,
God's love flows through everything.
Give love with open hands and you will find joy shining
in the surprises that undo us and transform us.
(The candle of Joy is lit)

Love. Everything leans toward Love.
From the greatest ruler to the tiniest baby,
God's love changes everything.

Prepare the way for love and you will find love shining
in each and every breath that whispers: Emmanuel.
(The candle of Love is lit)

Shine a candle in the darkness; breathe new love into our lives.
Wind your blessed peace around us till the day when Christ arrives.
Shine a candle in the darkness.
Wind your blessed peace around us.

Shine a candle in the darkness; breathe new love into our lives.
Wrap your blessed peace around us till the day when Christ arrives.

PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, Generous Lover of all, we come to worship longing to abide in love, as lavish
and wide as the stretching ocean and still as intimate as a tear. We yearn to feel your
presence flowing among us. Emmanuel, the promised one, we know you are as near
to us as our breathing. As we sing and pray, speak and listen, let the light of love
shine in our midst, for it is through this world-changing love that we witness you
moving in and among us. God-with-us, be with us, in this hour and every hour.

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 sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and glory for ever. Amen.
ADVENT CANDLE SONG - v4 (Insert)

CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE
"As with Gladness Men of Old" v3
As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Gracious and Loving God take our gifts in their many forms and use them and us
to spread the hope, peace and joy of this Advent. Invade our dreams and coax
us to be better in our waiting and sharing of this season. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
We believe that God has come to us;
that God brought us into being,
that this God gave us breath and purpose,
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,
that we have fallen short of this commandment
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.
We believe that God is coming to us;
that God is not happy to leave us alone,
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.
We believe that God will come to us;
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"
LESSONS AND CAROLS

INTRODUCTION/PRAYER

READING 1
Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19
Rev. Peter Kuhn
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
The Senior Choir

READING 2
Genesis 22:15-18
Suhua Dong
"Say He Will Come"
by Robert C. Lau
The Senior Choir

READING 3
Isaiah 9:2; 6-7
Julie Strickland

CAROL
#6 (Red Booklet) "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
(vs. 1 and 4)

READING 4
Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9
Rev. Ed Gobrecht

CAROL
#4 (Red Booklet) "Away in a Manger"

READING 5
Luke 1:26-35, 38
Julie Strickland

CAROL
#10 (Red Booklet) "The First Noel"
(vs. 1 and 2)
READING 6
Luke 2:1, 3-7
Rev. Peter Kuhn

CAROL
#9 (Red Booklet) “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
(vs. 1 and 3)

READING 7
Luke 2:8-16
Julie Strickland

CAROL
#1 (Red Booklet) “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”
(vs. 1 and 2)

READING 8
Matthew 2:1-12
Rev. Ed Gobrecht

READING 9
John 1:1-14
Suhua Dong

CAROL
* #12 (Red Booklet) “What Child Is This”

*FINAL BLESSING

* POSTLUDE – “A Christmas Postlude” – C. Callahan
 Portions of today’s worship elements have been taken from the following:


**Shine In, Star of Bethlehem.** Geoffrey Duncan. The Pilgrim Press. 2002.

**Affirmation of Faith:** Permission is given for use in congregational worship.

Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing - [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com)

**Advent Candle Song.** Words and Music: Arthur Clyde. © 1987 Augsburg Fortress.

**Anthem - Say He Will Come.** Words and Music: Robert Lau. © 1995 Lorenz Publishing Co.,
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**Postlude - A Christmas Postlude.** Setting by Charles Callahan. © 2000 Birnamwood
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**Worship Leaders:**

**Rev. Dr. Frederick Young**  Pastor

**Suhua Dong**  Lay Liturgist/Reader

**John McKay**  Choir Director

**Jane Eiker**  Organist

**Rev. Peter Kuhn, Julie Strickland, Rev. Ed Gobrecht,**  Readers

**Edie Rice, Judy Kartoz, Tammi Swartzbaugh**  Flute Flock

**Vicki Cuttitta, Georgia Hollabugh**

**Sue & Dave Churchill**  Greeters

**Janet & Steve Sheely**  Ushers

**Roberta Weiant**  Acolyte

**Georgia Hollabough, Kara Young,**  Tech Team

**Luke Milhimes, Russell Bailey, Sue Churchill, Carl Barrick, Stacy Rushwald,**

**George Steckert, Rayna Cooper, Garrison Redding**
1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morn-ing,

come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
Advent Candle Song

REFRAIN: Congregation and choir

We light the Advent candle to shine on us today, to give us hope, to make us warm while we await the coming of Christmas Day.

Choir:
1. When Mary came to Bethlehem,
   a lantern shed its light
   While Joseph led the little donkey
   through the silent night.

REFRAIN: Congregation and choir

Choir:
2. An empty stable was where they stayed
   the night our Lord was born;
   The lantern shone upon his face
   while Mary kept him warm.

REFRAIN: Congregation and choir

Choir:
3. When shepherds came to see the baby,
   torches lit the way
   So they could find the stable
   where Jesus lay.

REFRAIN: Congregation and choir

Choir:
4. As Christmas nears we light his way,
   but not to a stable door,
   Lord Jesus come and live within
   our hearts forevermore!

REFRAIN: Congregation and choir

Text and Music: Arthur Clyde

Advent Candle Song (11-2408) by Arthur Clyde
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It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
2 Still through the glo-ry skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled.
3 And you, be-neth life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world.
who toll a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow:
when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told.

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king,"
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing,
and ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road and hear the an-gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.
Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.
The First Noel

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to
   c-certain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay;
   they lay, keep-ing their sheep, on a cold win-ter's
   night that was so deep.

2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing
   in the east, be-yond them far; and to the
   earth it gave great light, and so it con-
   tin-ued both day and night.

3 And by the light of that same star three.
   wise men came from coun-try far; to seek, for a
   king was their in ten-tent, and to fol-low the
   star where-ev-er it went.

4 This star drew near to the north-west, o'er
   Beth-le-hem, it took its rest; and there it
   place where Je-sus lay.

5 Then en-tered in those wise men three, full
   rev-erent ly up on their knee, and of-fered
   myrrh, and frank incense.

   No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el! Born is the King of Is-ra-el.
O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
So God imparts to mortal hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!
1 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watch ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighten visions beam afar;
4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,

once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star,
ev er more your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
Good Christian hear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

This is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her Hallelujah!

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!
In Memory of:

William M. Alleman, Helen S., and Paul E. Alleman by Jane Alleman (1)
Helen Price, John F., Donald L., and Frederick E. Seibert by Jane Alleman (1)
Thomas Blackstone by Audrey Blackstone (1)
Herbert & Doris Bailey by Russell Bailey (2)
Qinglie Dong and Yumei Liu by Suhua Dong (1)
Our loved ones who are forever in our hearts by The Garskof family (4)
John & Elizabeth Hilbert, and Charles & Mary Harman by the Hilbert family (2)
Charles R. Kreitz, Sr., and Mary Kreitz by Ruth & Terry Kreitz (2)
Loved ones lost to COVID by Nancy MacMeekin (1)
Emerson (Buck) and Aileen Muller by Barbara Muller (1)
Virginia & Charles Kreitz, Jean & Donald Poland, Sr.
    by Pam & Jerry Polant and Megan & Brendan Mullooly (2)
Lawrence & Lula Redding and Daniel & Alice Hoffman by Russell & Nina Redding (4)
Edward Warren, Sr. by Ruby Warren (1)
Thomas and Scarlett Weiant and Victoria Timms by Roberta Weiant (1)
Loved ones gone from sight but forever in our hearts by Pat & Jack Ziegler (1)
In Honor of:

The White poinsettia is presented by the Hilbert Family
in celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ

My four Great Grandchildren by Audrey Blackstone (1)
Our Parents by Sandy & Tom Busche (2)
Trinity Staff by Nancy MacMeekin (1)
Our Sons, Jeff and Mike and their families by Suzy & Bob Miller (1)
All of my friends at Trinity Church by Bonnie Smith (1)
Mya Plank and Donald Hubbard Sr., by Christina Swinn (2)
My Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren by Roberta Weiant (1)
Beloved offspring scattered far and wide by Pat & Jack Ziegler (1)

Donations towards church decorations:
Marilyn J. Alleman
Russell Bailey
Audrey Blackstone
Sandra & Tom Busche
Suhua Dong
Ruth & Terry Krietz
Nancy MacMeekin
Barbara Muller
Nina & Russell Redding
Bonnie Smith
Rebecca & Tim Woodward
Pat & Jack Ziegler

And our thanks to:
The Altar Guild and other members who decorated the Sanctuary, Gathering Area and outside doors.
The Hilberts for the Poinsettia Tree