



Trinity United Church of Christ

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

Trinity United Church of Christ
December 31, 2023
1st Sunday of Christmas
10:30am Worship

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

*Congregational responses in **bold print**.*

** Denotes standing as you are able.*

+++++

TIME OF SHARING/GREETING

PRELUDE – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” – *arr. B. Olstad*

Georgia Hollabaugh – Flute

Lucy Greene – Cello

Sara Shank - Organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Through Christ, we are one with God.
We are flesh and spirit, joy and sorrow.
We are more than what we seem.

Christ is God’s gift to us, and we celebrate always
this gift of eternal grace.

We are redeemers and we are the redeemed.

We have received the loveliest gift, and for that,
we sing a great song of peace.

**We have received it to go forth,
to share Christ’s love with all who love to listen. Amen.**

*CAROL #6 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
(*Red Booklet*)

***PRAYER**

**God with us, we open our hearts and souls to the beauty of your kingdom.
We seek to hear the precious news once again that we might be continually
renewed, transformed, and awed by your abundant love, everlasting peace,
miraculous hope, and quenchless joy. May our praise and prayers be pleasing to you.
May our lives reflect the beauty you have birthed in us. Amen.**

CAROL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, you search us out and know us,
and all that we are is open to you.
We confess that we have sinned.
When we make no room for Christ,
and fail to welcome him into our lives,
forgive us and heal us.
When we follow shooting stars and squander
our gifts in Herod's court,
forgive us and heal us.
When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us,
and when we sanitize your birthplace
and erase from memory the poor and displaced,
forgive us and heal us.
When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth,
and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,
forgive us and heal us. Amen.**

(Moment for Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Mary Did you Know?"

Words: M. Lowry; Music: B. Greene"

Mary Jane Hilbert

CAROL

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

CAROL

MESSAGE/ART WORK UNVEILING

*CAROL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Still Speaking God, as we enter this new year,
may it be a year in which you are near to us in every moment.
For we believe in you, Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth.
Lord Jesus, stay by our side day by day.**

**We place our faith in you,
the one who is both God and flesh.
From your lowly birth in Bethlehem
to your ministry of healing and of grace,
from your self-giving death on the cross for us
to your powerful resurrection and ascension,
we believe in the truth of your Word.
Holy Spirit, come to us this year
in a thousand different ways.
With your gentle direction, your quiet voice,
and your wise instruction, guide us along our paths.
Still Speaking God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer –
you have gone before us into the new year,
and you call us to join you.
We come in confidence and joy,
loving and trusting you. Amen.**

PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

**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 forever. Amen.**

CAROL

CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS

God is all about abundance: love that never wavers,
mercy that never fails. Let us offer our gifts generously,
and in abundant love, as a thanksgiving to God.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE “*In The Bleak Midwinter*” (Verse 4)**

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him: give my heart***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
**Generous God, we give thanks for all the beautiful
resources you have given to us. Let these gifts
bring glory and honor to you and
beauty and peace to your creation. Amen.**

*CAROL #154 “Go Tell It on The Mountain”

*FINAL BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

+++++

Prelude: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*. Traditional Polish Carol, Arr. Brent Olstad, copyright 2011,
Brent Olstad Music, All rights reserved.

Special Music: *Mary, Did You Know?* Words: Mark Lowry. Music: Buddy Greene. Song no. 839225. © 1991,
1993 Rufus Music; Curb Word Music (admin. Capitol CMG Publishing, CURB / Word Music Publishing).

Podcast and streamed with CCLI licenses 11235337 and 20822520. All rights reserved.

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young	Pastor
Joan Peck	Lay Liturgist
Sara Shank	Organist
John McKay	Senior Choir Director
Mark Luckenbaugh	Percussion
Ann & Buck Harvey	Ushers
Jane Malone and Neal Hollabaugh	Greeters
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Sue Churchill,	Tech Team
Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Terry Krietz	

Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Refrain:

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev-ery-where.

Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.

Refrain:

2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.

Refrain:

3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain:

Luke 2:8–20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7