



Trinity United Church of Christ

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Trinity United Church of Christ

December 29, 2024

10:30am Worship

1st Sunday after Christmas

*If this is your first time with us, or if you have come to this sacred space your entire life, we are glad to be on this journey of faith with you. Trinity believes that **whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!** To enhance your worship experience, we have large print bulletins and hearing support devices available.*

Please ask an usher or greeter for assistance.

Enter to worship today but stick around to see what God is doing in this place!

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

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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME/TIME OF SHARING

PRELUDE – “Masters in This Hall” – M. Hayes
Dan Resh, Guest Pianist/Organist

***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 was 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 of a great song of peace.
**We have received it in order to go forth,
to share Christ's love with all who love to listen. Amen.**

***CAROL #2 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

PRAYER

Lord, this Christmas, give us new hope and strength, new meaning and power to change with love, with understanding, to face challenges with courage believing that a life centered in you will never fail to build a world of peace of togetherness of love; the Love that was born at Christmas. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

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 birth place 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 OF SILENT PRAYER)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Friends, God forgives us. This is why Jesus was born among us,
to restore our relationship with God. So be glad,
and continue your journey with God. Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG OF HEART

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹²Young men and women alike, old and young together!
¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

RECOGNITION OF ORDINATIONS ANNIVERSARY
Rev. Edward Gobrecht, 60 years and Rev. Peter Kuhn, 30 years

***HYMN #145 "Once in Royal David's City"**

***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.**

CAROL SING

*Selections from the Red Booklet or The New Century Hymnal.
We will sing the first and last verses of each Carol*

CHRISTMAS LITNANY AND LORD'S PRAYER

Amazing God, you love us so much that you came to us as an infant.
Born in a stable because there was no room at the inn.

You call us to love the world as we have been loved by you.
Wrapped in swaddling clothes, you slept in a manger because there was no crib.

You command us to love our neighbors as ourselves,
Shepherds welcomed and loved you.

You call us to create an inclusive church in which everyone is welcomed and loved.
No one was turned away from the stable door.

You keep calling to us to open our doors, to welcome the outcasts, house the homeless,
feed the hungry, and turn over the tables in the temple.
**Lambs and cows, chickens and donkeys, men, women, children...
angels of all kinds surround you.**

Help us create a world and a church in which all of your children are safe and loved, affirmed, welcomed, and fully accepted, where we all have a community of angels surrounding us.

One star brighter than the rest led the world to your door.

May our love and work in the Help us create a world and a church in which all of your children are safe and loved, affirmed, welcomed, and fully accepted, where we all have a community of angels surrounding us.

One star brighter than the rest led the world to your door.

he world be a beacon of hope to the hopeless,
and our churches be warm stables for all people.

Dear Child of Bethlehem, as we remember the stable and the manger, the dusty roads you walked and the cross on which you died, give us the faith and courage to tell your truth and make it our own. We pray all this in your name and say together the prayer you taught us to pray:

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.

CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS

***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

In simple trust we bring our gifts, our tithes of all we’ve known. We hear your calling in this hour. To share our lives and spread the hope meant not for heaven afar, but for your hurting and forlorn, your child who wakened up this morn, needing your love and ours. Amen

***CAROL #136 “Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child” (2x)**

***FINAL BLESSING**

Go with us, Lord, throughout this Christmas tide: be our protector, brother, friend, and guide.

Give us your peace and keep us in your care:

help us to spread your love and grace throughout this world. Amen

***POSTLUDE**

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PRELUDE: *Masters in This Hall.* Traditional French Carol. Arrange by Mark Hayes.

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SPECIAL MUSIC: *In the Bleak Midwinter.* Arranged by Joseph Martin. ©1997 Shawnee Press

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Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young

Lenore O'Rourke

Sara Shank

Mark Luckenbaugh

M. Jane Alleman

Ruth & Terry Krietz

Pastor

Liturgist

Organist

Percussion

Usher

Greeters

Acolyte

Tech Team

Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Russell Bailey,

Carl Barrick, Suhua Dong, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding,

Terry Krietz, Nina Redding, Cindy Kidd

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Once in Royal David's City

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

1. Once in roy-al Da-vid's ci-ty
stood a low-ly cat-tle shed,
Where a moth-er laid her ba-by
in a man-ger for a bed:
Mar-y was that moth-er mild,
Je-sus Christ her lit-tle child.
2. Je-sus came to earth from heav-en,
who is God and Head of all,
Shel-tered in a rus-tic sta-ble,
cra-dled in a com-mon stall;
With the poor and meek and low-ly
lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly.
3. And through all this won-drous child-hood
Je-sus hon-ored and o-beyed,
Loved and watched the ten-der moth-er
whose strong arms a cra-dle made.
So, like Je-sus, we should be
serv-ing God o-be-dient-ly.
4. Je-sus is our child-hood's pat-tern,
dai-ly like us lived and grew,
Je-sus, lit-tle, weak, and help-less,
tears and smiles and com-fort knew.

CHRISTMAS

Je-sus felt the pain of sad-ness,
and the joy-ous lift of glad-ness.

5. We at last shall meet our Sav-ior,
fount of God's re-deem-ing grace,
For that Child so dear and gen-tle
reigns with-in a glo-rious place;
Lead-ing all God's chil-dren on
to the heaven where saints have gone.

Luke 1:26–35; 2:1–7; 1 Thess. 4:13–18

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CHRISTMAS

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

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African-American traditional; alt.

Je-sus, Je-sus, oh, what a won-der-ful child.
Je-sus, Je-sus, so ho-ly, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the Child will bring.
Lis-ten to the an-gels sing,
“Glo-ry, glo-ry, glo-ry,” let the heav-ens ring!

Luke 1:30–35; 2:8–14

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