

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



December 21, 2025 8:00am and 10:30am Worship
Advent 4

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. It is truly a blessing that we all have gathered to worship together! Today is the fourth week of Advent. We will light the candles of Transportation, Protection, Warmth and Comfort within of our Advent wreath. Our Chancel Area is adorned with blue paraments to celebrate this time of the church year. If this is your first time with us, or if you have come to this sacred space your entire life, it is a blessing that we are all here together. Trinity truly 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!

*Please stand as you are able; **BOLD** print - congregational respons

TIME OF SHARING/GREETING

PRELUDE

“The First Nowell”

L. Larson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*HYMN #110 “Now Bless the God of Israel”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Comfort

God of freedom and love, help us use our voices to ensure
your children are comforted and protected.

**Like the dove who cooed baby Jesus to sleep,
may we offer peace and comfort to those seeking quiet shelter.**

We light this candle in the familiar comfort of this sanctuary.
Lord, may our words and actions reflect our beliefs and faith.

PRAYER

Lord, this is a lovely thing we do, to light candles week by week until your Son is born among us. As the light of these candles grows, so let the love of Christmas, the joy of giving, the happiness of hoping, spread through our homes, our families, our churches, our own lives, that we might come at last to kneel before the manger and know the child of Christmas is born within our hearts. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH SONG

“Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good” #138 (v5)

*“I”, said the dove, from the rafters high,
“I cooed you to sleep that you should not cry,
I cooed you to sleep, my love and I;
“I”, said the dove, from the rafters high.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess those places where we need to grow
to prepare for Christ to come in our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Silent Prayer of Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God chooses us, forgives us; lights our paths with the serenity of starlight,
and send us as messengers of love. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Waiting for Emmanuel”

by Schram

Senior Choir

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

SERMON

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 the Glory for ever. Amen.**

HYMN #105 “Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are an Advent people, a people of hope.
For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait.
We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God’s promise,
the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.
Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live
will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence
will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part
of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these
things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that**

was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever. Amen.

***CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

All that we have is the Lord's.
All that we may become and receive is in God's hands.
For the sake of joy that is ours when our bonds grow deep with others, let us give for the well-being of the world.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #117 (v1)**

***Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We dedicate our offerings and ourselves as expressions of your love. May we continue to hear the message of the angels, reminding us to not be afraid as we live out our call to bring your love to birth in our midst. In the name of the love that comes down at Christmas, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #121 "All Earth is Waiting"**

***FINAL BLESSING**

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the Spirit's joy surround you as you walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

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Other liturgy adapted from: *Touch Holiness*. Ruth Duck and M. Tirabassi, Editors.
Statement of Faith by Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison

PRELUDE: *The First Nowell*. Traditional English Carol. Arranged-Lloyd Larson. ©2001 Van Ness press, Inc.

HYMNS: *Now Bless the God of Israel*. Text-Ruth Duck. Tune Traditional English melody. Harmonization-Ralph Vaughan Williams. Words ©1992-G.I.A. Publications. Harmonization ©Oxford University Press. From The English Hymnal.

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear. Text-German carol. Paraphrased by Carol Birkland. Tune- German Carol. Words/harmonization ©1995 The Pilgrim Press.

All Earth is Waiting. Text-Alberto Taule. Translated-Gertrude C. Suppe. Tune-Alberto Taule, Harmonization-Skinner Chavez-Melo. Words-music ©1972 The Pastoral Musicians. English translation ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Harmonization ©1988 Skinner Chavez-Melo
ANTHEM: Waiting for Emmanuel. Words/Music-Ruth Elaine Schram. ©2006 by Hal Leonard Corp
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Our continued Prayers support. 12/14/25



Brayden Beamer, Don Blevins, Ashur Bowley, Tom Busche, Shirley Carlson, Kathy Ciolino, Sue Cline, Sonny Coble, Deb Crawford, Bill & Dee Duffy, Linda & Harold Heller (Sara Shank's parents), Harry Hilbert, John Harrison Hoffman, Evelyn Kretz, MacKenzie Kretz, Josh Langley, Christopher Little, Bob Miller, Kathy Murphy, Lenore O'Rourke, Brian Parker, Jerry & Pam Poland, Jo Ruse, Fischer Samuelson, Genevieve Shaffer, Ethan Shank, Betsy Dane Smith & Dusty Smith, Brea Thomas, Mary Timmins, Jessica Tonnis, Elizabeth & Sandy Topper, Mckenna Voss, and Teeyara Jo Weiant. Please call the office to be removed from the list.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Mary "Lois" Grim who passed away on Friday, December 5. Service was held Monday, December 15th at Trinity.

Genevieve Shaffer's new address: Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home, 1000 W. South Street, Room 42A, Carlisle, PA 17013

DRIVERS NEEDED; If you are already on the Care Team or would like to volunteer for providing transportation for members in need, please contact Deb in the office 717-334-7266. We are composing a new list of drivers to be handed out upon request.



CHRISTMAS EVE - *Traditional Worship*

3:00pm and 8:00pm both with Communion and Candlelight.

Attendance: 12/14: ONE SERVICE 10:30am 70 On-Line 154 TOTAL 226

Financial Report: 12/14:
Envelope Offering Needed: **\$183,350.00** Envelope Offering Received: **\$169,855.27**
Property Fund Needed: **\$19,250.00** Property Fund Received: **\$9,077.50**

*****PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Fred will be out of the office from Monday, December 29th through Saturday, January 3rd but will be available for emergencies.**

Today, 12/21: Church Christmas Dinner following Worship

Tuesday, 12/23: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Wednesday, 12/24: CHURCH OFFICE OPEN FROM 8:00AM – 10:30AM

3:00pm and 8:00pm Christmas Eve services both with Communion and Candlelight

Thursday, 12/25: Christmas Day - Church/Office Closed

Next Sunday 12/28: 10:30am ONE SERVICE

Annual Christmas Gift to the Church: Your Christmas Gift to the church is a statement of your faith in the work of the church and is greatly appreciated. Envelopes are included your December mailing packet. **GREEN envelopes are in the Pews & Gathering Area.**

“Christmas Fund” has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you! This year’s theme is simply “. . . . When they saw the Star, they were filled with Joy . . .” Matthew 2:10 **PURPLE envelopes are in the Pews & Gathering Area** for you to respond to this need. These gifts will be forwarded to the UCC Office. **Please make you checks payable to Trinity United Church of Christ and in the memo line write UCC Christmas Fund.** Thank you

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young

Sara Shank

Mark Luckenbaugh

Suzy Miller, Sandy Busche

Sonny Coble 8:00am Buck Harvey 10:30am

Bonnie Smith

Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Russell Bailey,

Carl Barrick, Suhua Dong, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Ruth Krietz,

Terry Krietz, Garrison Redding, Nina Redding, Cindy Kidd, Bette Bunce, Chris Swinn.

Pastor

Organist/Choir Director

Percussionist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Tech Team

Now Bless the God of Israel

Ruth Duck, 1985

1. Now bless the God of Is-ra-el,
who comes in love and power,
who rais-es from the roy-al house
de-liv-erance in this hour.
Through ho-ly proph-ets God has sworn
to free us from a-larm,
to save us from the heav-y hand
of all who wish us harm.

2. Re-mem-ber-ing the cov-e-nant,
God res-cues us from fear,
that we might serve in hol-i-ness
and peace from year to year;
And you, my child, shall go be-fore
to preach, to proph-e-sy,
that all may know the ten-der love,
the grace of God most high.

3. In ten-der mer-cy, God will send
the day-spring from on high,
our ris-ing sun, the light of life
for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace,
that death shall reign no more.
Sing prais-es to the Ho-ly One!
O wor-ship and a-dore!

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

German carol, 15th century
Paraphr. by Carol Birkland, 1993

1. “Gen-tle Jo-seph, Jo-seph dear,
stay with me, for the ba-by’s near;
God will sure-ly your good-ness hear,
as you will love this new-born child,” says Mar-y.

2. “Glad-ly Mar-y, Mar-y mine,
I will cra-dle the child di-vine;
Here will heav-en and earth com-bine,
for you will bear God’s child, O dear-est Mar-y.”

3. “Peace to all and God’s good-will,”
heaven and earth with this song will fill;
Soon will God, in the eve-ning still,
be born in Beth-le-hem, the child of Mar-y.

Matt. 1:18–25

Toda la Tierra
(All Earth Is Waiting)

Alberto Taulé, 1972; alt.
Transl. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987; alt.

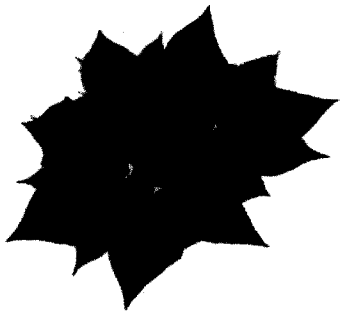
1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,
and o-pen fur-rows, the sow-ing of our God.
All the world, bound and strug-gling, seeks true lib-er-ty;
it cries out for jus-tice and search-es for the truth.

2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is-ra-el,
“A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el”:
One whose name is “God with us,” our Sav-ior shall be,
through whom hope will blos-som once more with-in our hearts.

3. Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be made plain;
o-pen new high-ways, new high-ways for our God,
Who is now com-ing closer, so come all and see,
and o-pen the door-ways as wide as wide can be.

4. In low-ly sta-ble the Prom-ised One ap-peared,
yet feel that pres-ence through-out the earth to-day,
For Christ lives in all Chris-tians and is with us now;
a-gain, on ar-riv-ing Christ brings us lib-er-ty.

Isa. 40:3–5; Luke 3:4–6; Matt. 1:23



In Loving Memory of:

Herbert & Doris Bailey by Russell Bailey (1)

Loved Ones by Cindy Barley (1)

The Rev. Randall and Doris Heckman by Rev. Edward Gobrecht (1)

Galia Kendlehart by Neal, Karen & Victor Kendlehart (1)

Paul Kendlehart by brother Neal, Karen & Victor Kendlehart (1)

Lila & Don Martin by Cindy Kidd (1)

Roy & Edna Reed by Nancy MacMeekin (1)

My Grandparents by Jim H. Orner (1)

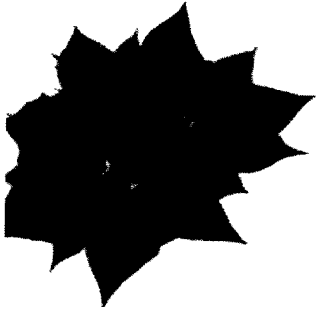
Virginia & Charles Krietz and Jean & Donald Poland by Pam & Jerry Poland (1)

Kathry Schultz and Katie Bixler by Radcliff Schultz (2)

Clara & George Steckert by George Steckert (2)

Henry Whitfield and Miles M. Whitfield by Phyllis Whitfield and family (2)

Family gone before us by Rebecca & Tim Woodward (7)



In Honor of:

Our Children by Sandy & Tom Busche (1)

Our Church Family by Ruth & Terry Krietz (1)

Trinity Family by Nancy MacMeekin (1)

Our Children & Grandchildren by Maryann & Ken Oelkers (2)

Cindy Barley for being a great nurse and loving sister during my recuperation this summer
by Nina Redding (1)

The White poinsettia is in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ by the Hilbert Family (1)

Donations towards church decorations:

Rev. Edward Gobrecht

Karen & Neal Kendlehart

Ruth & Terry Krietz

Jim Orner

Nina & Russell Redding

Bonnie Smith in honor of Pastor Fred & Kara

George Steckert

Phyllis Whitfield

Rebecca & Tim Woodward

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

Cindy & Don Blevins for the two Red Poinsettias on the Altar through the season