

The
true light
which enlightens everyone



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music and SOT Choir Director

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

CHRISTMAS EVE

10:30 P.M.

SILENT REFLECTION

As on the first day of creation, on Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Tonight we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

WELCOME ALL VISITORS! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us again in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book. **Welcome to the Eucharist!** All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. *Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

PRELUDES

Christmas Carol Medley

He is Born

Ding Dong, Merrily on High

arr. E. Rocherolle and J. Schaum

French Carol/arr. R. Powell

French Carol arr. Roy Brunner

COMING FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

THE PROPHETIC WORD

Isaiah 9:2-7; 60:1-3

(Lighting of the altar candles)

VOCAL SOLO

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam/Slechta

Theodore Slechta; Michael Slechta, Pianist

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Let us pray together.

True God of God, Light from Light Eternal, make us faithful. Help us live the prophet's vision of peace, your vision of peace, bring love to the world, living the Kingdom. May we adore you with our songs, our lives, and our gratitude; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 112

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM and INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (sung)

We turn to you, O God, in the midst of our lives.

We gather at your table to remember your mighty works of old.
Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Our time of waiting is over. Christmas is here. Our days of preparation are completed. What has not been done will now have to be left undone. We have witnessed to this very hour, this very day, and we hope that the world has heard the good news which we have spoken.

Our circle of Advent candles is lit; now tonight we light the central candle, reminding us that Christ is the light of the world, the center of our lives, the shining beacon of hope for all the universe. Christ is born. Praise God!

Let us pray together.

We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. We thank you that Christ's coming makes hope, peace, joy, and love possible for every person in every nation. Encourage us to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. Now let your Spirit put us in touch with you, the living God, through the words and music we hear tonight. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

PRAISE VERSICLE and RESPONSE

Praise the Lord!

The Lord be praised!

Let us sing praise to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE

The First Nowell (verses 1 & 2)

No. 118

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALTER

Psalm 96

Refrain

Sing to the Lord; O sing a new song.

Sing to the Lord; O sing a new song.

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O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

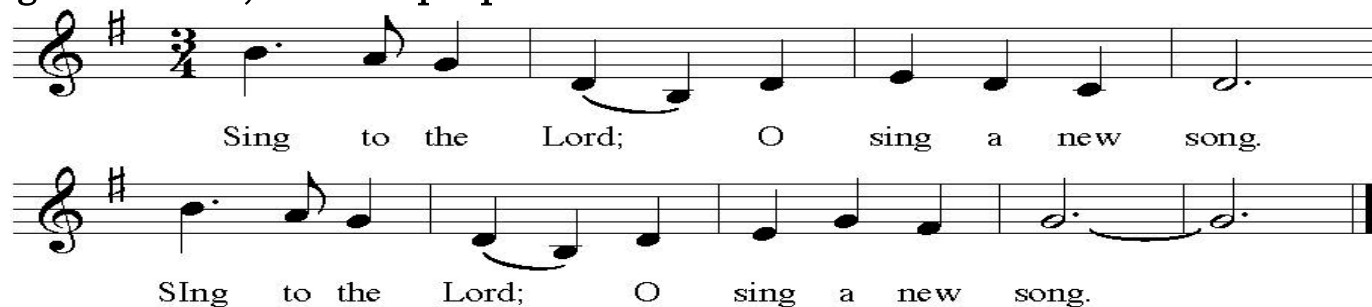
Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.



THE SECOND LESSON Hebrews 1:1-12

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE 2:1-20

Glory be to You. O Lord

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

MEDITATION

"Darkness Flies, All is Light"

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

HYMN

From Earth to Heaven I Come

No. 114

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy

Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

Bethlehem, O Bethlehem Words by Herb Frombach
Music by Robert Lau

Bethlehem, O Bethlehem,
Your star above is bright.
Little town of David's line,
This is your holy night.
Bethlehem, O Bethlehem,
You cradle God's own Son.
Little town of David's line,
You hold the 'Promised One.'

Chorus:

God chooses you to be the place
He shines his mortal light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.

Bethlehem, O Bethlehem,
So quiet and so still,
Little town of David's line, your manger is God's will.
O God with us, Emmanuel,
Our Savior and our King.
Now all of heaven does rejoice
As herald angels sing.

Chorus

"Bethlehem, O Bethlehem" words by Herb Frombach, music by Robert Lau © 2010 Hinshaw Music, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-711879.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger

setting by Austin Lovelace

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is
Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 16th Century English Melody

GREENSLEEVES
87.87 with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In ancient days, you created us in your image to be reflections of your glory. When we fell short and dimmed the brilliance of your light shining through us, you held our hands and walked with us out of the garden into all the corners of the earth. When we are afraid to look upon your glory, you came as a quiet traveler, as a burning bush, and as a pillar of light. You called us to be people of light, to walk no longer in darkness, and always, you light our way. Even when we walk in darkness, you shine your light and offer your grace, awaiting our return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reveal your glory and grace. And so, with your people on earth and all the angels in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their unending hymn.

SERAPHIC HYMN

Holy, Holy, Lord God of Heav'n and Earth

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of heav'n and earth; An - gels praise You with joy - ful song.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of heav'n and earth; Who has sent us Your on - ly Son.

By Your gift You saved us. We lift our new Ho - san - a.

Praise we with the an - gels now for all now are one.

"Holy, Holy, Lord God of Heav'n and Earth" text by Dina Slechta 2018; tune SICILIAN MARINERS Sicilian Melody, 1794.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNICATION

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. We will commune by each section. The pastor will give you the wafer and you will dip it in the chalice held by the assistant. Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing after all have communed.)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray together.

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

HYMN

Silent Night

No. 101

Please stand when all candles are lit.

The pastor will direct you to raise your candle at the beginning of the fourth verse.

SCRIPTURE READING

St. John 1:1-14

Please extinguish your candles

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

HYMN

Joy to the World!

No. 120

BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

POSTLUDE

In Excelsis Deo

French Carol/arr. Lee Ellis

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

The Chancel Flowers are given by Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman in celebration of Judy's birthday and in honor of our military.

The Baptismal Font Flowers are given by **Gary, Harry, Brenda & Ronald Himelwright** in loving memory of **Lou Ann Himelwright**.

The Worship Aids are given by **Pastor Rankin** in memory of his grandmother, **Dorothy Rankin**, who died on **December 25, 2009**.

Ministering Tonight

Pastor/Celebrant	Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin
Lector/Assistant	Diane Rice
Ushers/Greeters	Theodore Slechta, Karen Olley, John Shelsky

Thank you to all who are assisting with our service this evening! A special thanks to all of the musicians for their musical leadership tonight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 25 SERVICE: We will celebrate Christmas at a service of lessons and carols with Holy Communion tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. This service is adaptation of the Festival of Lessons & Carols at King’s College in Cambridge.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on December 26.

NEW YEAR’S DAY SERVICE: We will begin 2023 and the 175th anniversary of Trinity U.C.C. with a Service of Word & Sacrament on January 1st at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Rankin will preach the sermon “Praising God 175 Years and Beyond”.

THE JANUARY PARISH POST is available on both floors of the church building.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NORTH WINDOW is given in memory of Leon L. & Ethel Gruber by son Greg, daughter Sharon Armstrong, and granddaughter Jessica.

THE CHRISMON TREE: The Chrismons on the small tree in the stairwell were made by the late Edythe Geib. Several people have asked about the Chrismon tree. The term “Chrismon” comes from the Latin “Christi monnogramma” which simply means “monogram of Christ”. Therefore, a Chrismon is a Christian symbol that represents Christ. There is a descriptive list of the various Chrismons next to the tree.

THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Grace M. Dodson (mother) and Dolores A. Dodson (aunt) of Donna Wolf, given by the family and friends. The candle stand and wreath are in memory of S. Leona Wolf, mother of the late John Wolf.

THE PEW CANDLE HOLDERS, made by John Barr, were given by John and Dolly Barr.

THE NATIVITY SCENE ON THE FRONT LAWN was made by Mike Wagner.

THE CRECHE ON THE LOWER LEVEL BY THE ELEVATOR was made by Mike Wagner.



Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary!!

Name	# of flowers	In Honor /In memory of
John & Betsy Bailey	2	In memory of our daughter, Glenna Bishop
		In memory of dear friend, Ken Geib
Roger & Mary Ann Bradley	1	In memory of our parents
Joan Cash	2	In memory of C. L. Fountain
		In memory of Joan Hammer Yohe
Nancy Crawford	2	In memory of Keith G. Rankin, Jackie Meisky & John Meisky
		In honor of Chris, Anne, Nikki, Heather, Tara, Zach, Rachel, Andrew, Quinn
Paula Dennes	1	In memory of parents & grandparents
Mark & Chris Eyer	2	In memory of our parents
Donna Geisler	1	In memory of my father, The Rev. George R. Geisler, Pastor Emeritus, Trinity UCC 1964-1989, and my mother, Janice "Danny" Geisler
Greg Gruber	2	In memory of Leon & Ethel Gruber
Gary, Harry, Brenda & Ronald Himelwright	2	In loving memory of Lou Ann Himelwright
Jackey Hoover	2	In memory of Nowell Hoover
Denise Huggins & Danielle Holbein	3	In memory of Scott Huggins, Dan & Ardie Huggins
		In memory of Marguerite & Walter Yost
		In memory of Norman Zeigler
Robert & Hedwig Hunsicker	2	In memory of our parents
Chuck & Sue Husted	7	In memory of Gail Boettger
		In memory of our friends-Elaine, Cinny, Nicky, Sam & George
		In honor of grandchildren & great grandchildren
		In memory of their son, Christopher Husted
		In memory of their grandson, Gabryl Husted
		In memory of our parents
		In honor of our grandchildren & great grandchildren
<i>Miyah, Hannah</i>		In honor of Stan & Pat Seachrist

The Leaman family	1	In memory of Charles & Doris Leaman
Members of Trinity(white)	1	In honor of Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin, Pastor
Members of Trinity(white)	1	In honor of Michael Slechta, Director of Music & SOT Choir Director
Members of Trinity(white)	1	In honor of Christine Oetama, Organist
Members of Trinity(white)	1	In honor of Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant
Members of Trinity(white)	1	In honor of Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director
John & Sarah Paulukow	2	In thankfulness for our church family
		In memory of those who are not here to celebrate Christmas 2022
Donald & Denise Pfeiffer	2	In honor of our children & grandchildren
		In memory of our parents & grandparents
Pastor Chris & Anne Rankin	3	In honor of Zachary, Rachel, and Andrew
Jerry & Carmen Richards	1	In honor of our family
Rev. Harry G. Royer	4	In honor of Donna Zirkel
		In memory of our parents
		In memory of Harriet Confair
		In memory of Sister Theresa Joseph
Stan & Pat Seachrist	2	In honor of our grandchildren & great grandchildren
		In memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. William Seachrist & Mr. & Mrs. Harry Garner
Dottie Schadt & family	2	In memory of Jere Schadt
		In memory of Kevin Schadt
Bob & Marlyn Wible	3	In memory of our parents & grandparents



St. Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

DECEMBER 25, 2022

(A)

**NATIVITY OF THE LORD
CHRISTMAS DAY**

FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

SECOND LESSON. Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.")

GOSPEL. John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

