

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

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## CHRISTMAS EVE

6:30 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.

### PRELUDES

*Masters in This Hall*

*Adeste Fideles*

*The Holly and the Ivy*

*Good King Wenceslas*

String Ensemble: Violin: Jeff Hackenberger, Christine Oetama, Denise Pfeiffer

Viola: Rachel Baynard, Anne Rankin

Cello: Dina Slechta

*Still, Still, Still*

arr. Jay Rouse

Carmen Richards, Piano

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

*I Saw Three Ships*

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

*The Infant King*

String Ensemble

*The First Noel*

arr. Jay Rouse

Carmen Richards, Piano

*He is Born*

French Carol/arr. R. Powell

*Ding Dong, Merrily on High*

French Carol arr. Roy Brunner

Christine Oetama, Organ

## **COMING FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

**THE PROPHETIC WORD**

Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick Stowe

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

**VOCAL SOLO**

*O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam/Slechta

Theodore Slechta, Soloist; Michael Slechta, Pianist

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **ADORATION AND PRAISE**

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM and CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

Lift up your hearts in joyful praise!

**We praise the Lord on this holy night.**

We tear the silence with our acts of praise.

**We tear the darkness by our acts of faith.**

Lift up your hearts in joyful praise!

**We lift up our very lives in joyful obedience.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

No. 112

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

**LET THE CHILDREN COME/LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

On this Christmas Eve we are gathered as God's people to celebrate again what Christ's coming means to the world.

**We join with Christians all over the world who are celebrating tonight.**

Hear these words from the Prophet Isaiah: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6 NRSV)

**Throughout this Advent season, we have been reminded of what the good news means to us: hope, peace, joy, and love.**

Tonight we light the Christ candle, as we think about what Christ's coming means to each one of us. Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we here on earth may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### ADVENT CANDELIGHT CAROL

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It is divided into three parts: Congregation, Choir, and Congregation. The first line (measures 1-6) is for the Congregation, with lyrics 'Come, O Child of Hope we pray.' The second line (measures 7-9) is for the Choir, with lyrics 'En-ter our hearts and show us Your way.' The third line (measures 10-13) is for the Congregation, with lyrics 'Pro - mise of God, Heav - en's pure Light, Joy for our world shin - ing bright! Come, O Child of Love, we pray.' The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4. Measure numbers 7 and 10 are indicated at the start of their respective lines.

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## THE WORD OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

Pastor Rankin

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (see page 10)

St. Luke 2:1-7

Steve Gold

CHOIR ANTHEM

*What Did The Star See?*

Words by J. Paul Williams  
Music by Joseph M. Martin

Dina Slechta, Cello

What did the star see that made it shine so bright?  
What did the star see in Bethlehem that night?  
Did it see the faithful shepherds on the grassy mountainside?  
What did the star see in Bethlehem that night?

What did the star hear that made it shine so bright?  
What did the star hear in Bethlehem that night?  
Did it hear the alleluias sung by angels in their flight?  
What did the star hear in Bethlehem that night?

What did the star feel that made it shine so bright?  
What did the star feel in Bethlehem that night?  
Did it feel the joy of heaven as love sent forth its light?  
What did the star feel in Bethlehem that night?

What did the star see?  
The light of the world is Jesus.  
What did the star hear?  
Our song in the night is Jesus.  
What did the star feel?  
O joy to the world, joy to the world.

“What Did The Star See?” text by J. Paul Williams, music by Joseph M. Martin © 2015 Shawnee Press. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-711879.

St. Luke 2:8-14		Nevin Cooley
<b>HYMN</b>	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	<b>No. 105</b>

St. Luke 2:15-20		Pastor Rankin
<b>HYMN</b>	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	<b>No. 109</b>

<b>MEDITATION</b>	<b>“Joy and Light Are Breaking In!”</b>	<b>Pastor Rankin</b>
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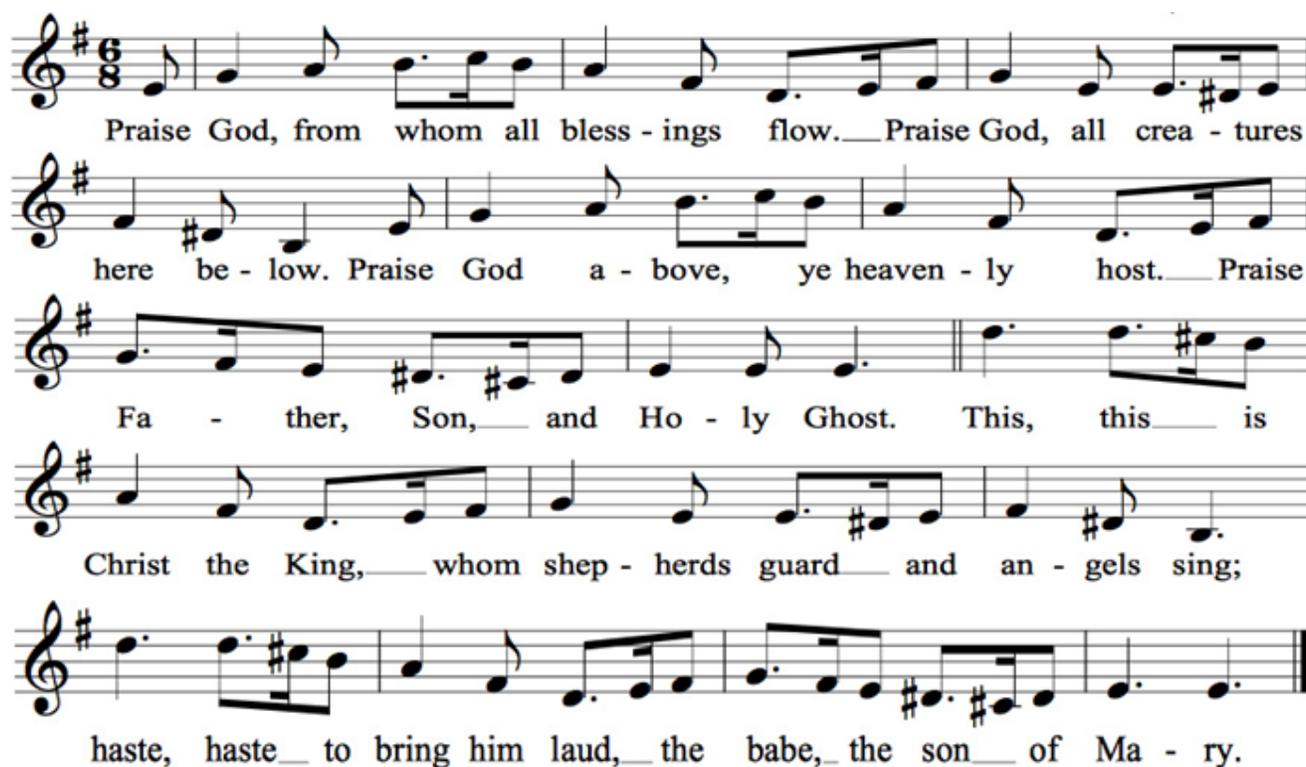
## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALL TO OFFERING**

<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	setting by Austin Lovelace
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*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## OFFERING 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](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, on this Christmas night, we offer ourselves and our gratitude in remembrance for your gracious presence in our lives and in our world. Be born in us anew, and shine your light through these gifts we now bring. Surround us with your glory, that we, like the shepherds long ago, might sing your praises and reveal your grace in all we say and do. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## 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 Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe

*Please extinguish your candles*

**RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

In darkness we arrived.

In light we now leave.

Though once we stumbled,  
we now walk with confidence.

Rise up and go, for the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.  
May the light of Christ lead us for evermore. Amen.

**RESPONSE***Go Tell It On the Mountain* (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!

"Go Tell It On The Mountain" harmonization by Joyce Finch Johnson © 1992 The Pilgrim Press. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-711879.

**POSTLUDE***In Excelsis Deo*

French Carol/arr. Lee Ellis

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**CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY**


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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	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Readers	Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe, Steve Gold, Nevin Cooley, Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe
Ushers	Steve Shenk, Kathy McCarty, Theodore Slechta, Charlene Cristy, Zach & Rachel Baynard, Anne & Andrew Rankin
Greeters	Charlene Cristy, Sally Rodenberger
Acolytes	Zach & Rachel Baynard

**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**

We invite everyone to join us for our **Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion at 10:30 p.m.** Prelude music will begin at 10:20 p.m.

**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 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Trinity U.C.C. with a Service of Word & Sacrament on January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 PEW CANDLE HOLDERS,** made by John Barr, were given by John and Dolly Barr.

**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 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 LouAnn 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.

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