

# GLORY



*to God in the highest*

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520  
717-569-1632

Website: [www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org)

E-Mail: [secretary@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:secretary@trinityeastpete.org)

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**

*Good News From Heaven the Angels Bring*

**Pachelbel**

Nancy Enders, organ

*Gloria*

**Vivaldi**

Nancy Enders, organ; Mike and Deb Lichtenwalner, trumpets

### **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# CELEBRATING THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

## THE PROPHETIC WORD

Isaiah 9:2-7; 60:1-3  
(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

## HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#112

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM and LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

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 BE SEATED)

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

### THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

St. Luke 2:1-7

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*Born in Bethlehem*

Words by John Parker  
Music by David Lantz III

Where is He, born King of the Jews? In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem.

Shout it out! Go spread the news! He is born in Bethlehem.

Where did His mother lay her child? In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem.

Mary's baby, meek and mild; He is born in Bethlehem.

Born, born in Bethlehem, Son of God, Son of Man.

Let your sounds of praise begin, for Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem.



Shepherds bowing at the sight in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem,  
Worshipping the Son of light; He is born in Bethlehem.  
Kings and wise-men from the East in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem,  
From the greatest to the least; He is born in Bethlehem.  
Born, born in Bethlehem, Son of God, Son of Man.  
Let your sounds of praise begin, for Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Angels singing loud and strong in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem.  
Join their festive joyous song! He is born in Bethlehem.  
Born, born in Bethlehem, Son of God, Son of Man.  
Let your sounds of praise begin for Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem,  
Born in Bethlehem, born in Bethlehem!

“Born In Bethlehem” words by John Parker, music by David Lantz III © 2005 GlorySound. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-711879

St. Luke 2:8-14

**HYMN**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

**No. 105**

St. Luke 2:15-20

**MEDITATION**

**“The Light Shines in the Darkness”**

**Pastor Rankin**

**LITANY PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space. Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need

Your spirit calls your church to rejoice in Christ’s birth. As we gather at the manger, help us see your face in all babies needing comfort and care. Equip the church in the nurture and encouragement of all children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The rocks and streams proclaim your praise. Attune us to the joyful sounds and groaning of your creation. Stir us to tend the earth wisely, that the whole earth may dwell in abundance and peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your messengers declare your joy to the world. Embolden leaders and nations to make your justice and peace known throughout the earth. Uphold justice advocates and social service providers who risk their safety to help others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You choose those regarded as lowly to tell the good news of your love. Pour out your mercy and care on all who are sick, grieving, struggling, and the elderly who live alone. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You abide with your people in times of trouble. Accompany families and children who have nowhere to turn. Strengthen this congregation and local ministries in their care for those fleeing danger, abuse, or neglect. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**HYMN**

*Away in a Manger*

No. 105

**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. 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 Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe

*Please extinguish your candles*

**HYMN**

*Joy to the World!*

No. 120

**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.**

## CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Jane Portser** in honor of our son Chip's birthday & Chip and Alaina's wedding anniversary.

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.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on December 27.

### Ministering Tonight

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Pastors         | Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin & Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe |
| Lector          | Jeff Hackenberger   |
| Greeters/Ushers | Beth Bossert, Don Miller, Dennis Eberly, Steve Shenk        |
| Acolytes        | Zach & Rachel Baynard                                       |

Thank you to all who are assisting with our service this evening! A special thanks to the Sound of Trinity Choir, Nancy Enders, and Mike & Deb Lichtenwalner, Carmen Richards, and Michael Slechta for their music leadership tonight!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DECEMBER 26 SERVICES:** We will continue to celebrate Christmas at both services on December 26. The service of lessons and carols will be at the 10:30 a.m. service. This service is adaptation of the Festival of Lessons & Carols at King's College in Cambridge.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on December 27.

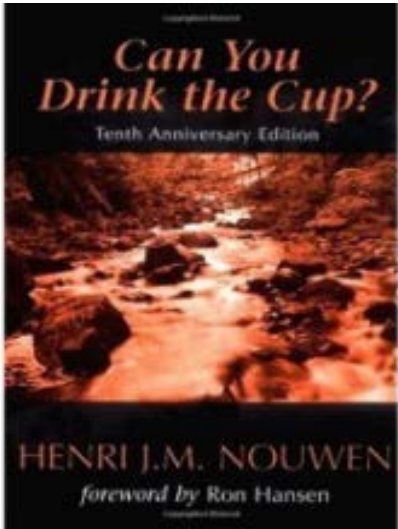
### 2022 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AIDS SPONSORS

Contact Carol in the church office to sign-up for chancel flowers and worship aids for 2022. We recently changed florists and so the new price for flowers will be \$60. The price for worship aids will remain at \$26. Chancel Flowers dates available are: **January 9 & 16.** Worship Aids are available **January 2, 9 & 16.**

**DEVOTIONALS:** The January-March edition of *These Days* is available in the Narthex or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

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

**MONEY BOXES:** The children's Sunday School class has been learning about sharing God's gifts with others. They created boxes to collect coins to support a mission project or the work of our Christian Education ministry. Look for the boxes on the table across from the church office. Talk to Anne Rankin for more information.



**JANUARY BOOK STUDY:** Pastor Rankin will be leading a book study via Google Meet on January 17, 24, and 31 from 7-8 p.m. We will be reading Henri Nouwen's *Can You Drink the Cup?*

*This question---one that Jesus asked his friends James and John---"has the power to crack open the hardened heart and lay bare the tendons of the spiritual life," explains world-renowned spiritual writer Henri Nouwen.*

*The cup, a powerful image in the human experience, a symbol used to celebrate a wide range of human endeavors, becomes for Nouwen a doorway opening on the spiritual horizon.*

*"Drinking our cup to the bottom is seen as the expression of the full freedom of the sons and daughters of God," he writes. His goal is to make the question Jesus posed pierce our hearts so that a personal answer can emerge from it.*

Please sign-up by contacting Carol in the church office. **The deadline to order books through the church is December 27.**

**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 ELEVEATOR** 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      | 1            | In honor of Lee Bossert for the many "behind the scene kindnesses" he does for Trinity & Trinity members |
| Beth Bossert             | 1            | In gratitude for David Connor and all his work as a member of the Property Committee                     |
|                          | 1            | In gratitude for Hank Fox and all his work as a member of the Property Committee                         |
|                          | 1            | In gratitude of Chuck Husted for all his work on the church building this past year                      |
|                          | 1            | In gratitude of Don Miller and all his work over the many years as a member of the Property Committee    |
|                          | 1            | In gratitude for Patrick Sensenig and all his work as a member of the Property Committee                 |
|                          | 1            | In gratitude for Mike Wagner and all his work as a member of the Property Committee                      |
| Roger & Mary Ann Bradley | 1            | In honor of our family   |
| Charles family           | 3            | In memory of Herbert and Isabell Charles   |
|                          |              | In memory of Nancy & Charles Rogers  |
| Carole & David Connor    | 2            | In memory of Frances Connor  |
|                          |              | In memory of Hellen & Cletus Brackbill   |
| Nevin & Kathy Cooley     | 3            | In memory of Ann, Nevin Cooley and Nellie Sharkitt   |
| Nancy Crawford           | 3            | In honor of Chris & Anne Rankin, Zach, Rachel & Andrew   |
|                          |              | In memory of Keith Rankin, Jackie Meisky, John Meisky  |
|                          |              | In honor of Nikki, Heather, Tara, & Quinn  |
| John & Charlene Cristy   | 2            | In memory of James Diffenderfer-friend   |
|                          |              | In memory of Myles & Gladys Lenker-parents of Charlene Cristy  |
| Paula Dennes             | 1            | In memory of my parents  |



|                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Donna Geisler                     | 2 | In honor of my daughters, Kimberly Knoll & Kerry Kreider.<br>In honor of Jere, Landis & Hayden Knoll & Matthew & Caleb Kreider |
|                                   |   | In memory of my father, The Rev. George R. Geisler, Pastor Emeritus, Trinity UCC 1964-1989 & my mother Janice Geisler          |
| Greg Gruber                       | 2 | In memory of Leon & Ethel Gruber   |
| Brenda & Harry Himelwright        | 2 | In memory of all of our family and friends who are not with us for this Christmas celebration                                  |
| Jacqueline Hoover                 | 3 | In memory of Nowell Hoover   |
|                                   |   | In memory of Ferne Hoover  |
| Denise Huggins & Danielle Holbein | 3 | In memory of Scott Huggins   |
|                                   |   | In memory of my parents & my in-laws   |
|                                   |   | In memory of Danielle's grandparents   |
| The Hunsickers                    | 2 | In memory of Paul & Verda Hunsicker  |
|                                   |   | In memory of Heinz & Madlene Stege   |
| Chuck & Sue Husted                | 6 | In memory of parents   |
|                                   |   | In honor of grandchildren & great grandchildren  |
| <i>Parents</i>                    |   | In memory of Chris Husted  |
|                                   |   | In memory of Gail Boettger   |
| <i>Grandparents</i>               |   | In memory of Gabryl Husted   |
| <i>Miyah &amp; Hannah</i>         |   | In honor of Stan & Pat Seachrist   |
| Doris Leaman                      | 1 | In memory of my husband, Charles Leaman  |
| Members of Trinity                | 1 | White Poinsettia in honor of Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin, Pastor   |
|                                   | 1 | White Poinsettia in honor of Michael Slechta, Director of Music & SOT Choir Director   |
|                                   | 1 | White Poinsettia in honor of Christine Oetama, Organist  |
|                                   | 1 | White Poinsettia in honor of Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant   |
|                                   | 1 | White Poinsettia in honor of Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director   |
| Christine Oetama                  | 1 | In memory of Ernest & Marian Shenk, my parents   |
| Jack & Karen Olley                | 1 | In honor of our granddaughters, Ella & Adellae Heagy   |
| Andrew Rankin                     | 1 | In honor of Betty Fogle  |
| 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               | 8 | In honor of my sister, Donna Zirkel  |
|                                   |   | In honor of Thomas W. Goodhart   |
|                                   |   | In honor of Lee Bossert  |
|                                   |   | In memory of my parents, George N. Royer Jr. & Dorothy B. Royer  |
|                                   |   | In memory of my grandparents, George N. Royer Sr. & Jane M. Royer  |
|                                   |   | In memory of my grandparents, Harry M. Brongard & Mary B. Miller   |
|                                   |   | In memory of Sister Theresa Joseph Lazus   |
|                                   |   | In memory of Harriet Confair   |
| Dottie Schadt & daughter          | 2 | In memory of Jere Schadt   |
|                                   |   | In memory of Kevin Schadt  |
| Donna Smoker                      | 5 | In memory of my parents, Martha & George Longenecker   |
|                                   |   | In honor of my sisters, Marti Bender & Toni Tice   |
|                                   |   | In memory of my sister, Georgia McCune   |
| Donna Wolf                        | 1 | In memory of husband, John -11/18/2019   |

## CHURCH COVENANT IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

As an individual who attends Trinity United Church of Christ I covenant to work with my fellow church members, family and friends to keep our community safe and healthy.

I covenant to . . .

*Wear a face mask as a symbol of love and care for others.*

*Sit six feet apart from others, leaving room for God to work in the in-between spaces.*

*Clean up after myself in the spaces I use because germs are everywhere I go too!*

*Honor and respect the sacredness of each person in this space and to stay home if I don't feel well or have been around someone who is waiting the results of a COVID test, knowing God is with us wherever we are, whether inside or outside the walls of the church.*

*Work together with my church family in creating a safe and healthy space to gather for worship, fellowship, or church activities as one body, united in God's love.*

*Acknowledge the hard work ahead, and the commitment to care for one another.*

Together, we as the church, covenant to care and love one another in new and different ways as we:

- Share God's love with our community
- Serve God's children
- Bring healing and wholeness to those in need
- Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study



## 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, 2021**

**(C)**

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR 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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