



Blessed are you
among women

LUKE 1:42

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

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail: 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/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Ms. Karen Karosas, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion-with high delight-"we proclaim the Lord's death."

The O Antiphons: In the medieval church, a series of Latin hymns were sung each day from December 17-23 as part of the Christmas Vespers. Each hymn began with "O" and they were called the "O" Antiphons. The word antiphon means psalm or anthem. The antiphons are sung either before or after the Magnificat, the Song of Mary that we read today.

The O Antiphons are an acrostic. Taking the first letter of each of the names of the Messiah in the antiphons in order, and then read backwards, they form the Latin words *ero cras*, which means "tomorrow, I will be [there]." This is a clever and subtle way of signaling the end of Advent and the arrival of the One predicted by Isaiah and the other prophets and described in the antiphons.

An English Minister, John Mason Neale, put together segments of the O Antiphons to create the beloved Advent hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. His original version was *Draw nigh, Draw Nigh, Emmanuel*.

Today's antiphon is the third verse of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (#88), which we will sing later at the 10:30 service.

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 in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

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.

Prayer As You Enter : *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

- 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*

BY YOUR SILENCE OTHERS MAY HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

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

We gather at your table to remember your mighty works of old.
God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

As we gather around the Advent wreath today, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy.

Christmas is a time of worship—the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for humankind.

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

With the coming of this light there is love. Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

Let us pray together.

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

John the Baptist calls us to repent, to prepare for the coming of God's reign.

Let us heed John's call and confess our sins in silent prayer.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

LITANY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us. Amen.

KYRIE

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lord, have mercy. | Lord, have mercy. |
| Christ, have mercy. | Christ, have mercy. |
| Lord, have mercy. | Lord, have mercy. |

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let us pray the collect together.

Move among us once again here today in this sacred place and time, O Lord, our God. Open us to the work of your Spirit that we might come to realize the power of your love as it seeks to embrace us once again. Empower us as your people that we may worship you in spirit and in truth and that your grace may soothe our hurting souls and heal our wounds. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem). This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALTER

St. Luke 1:46b-55 (*Mary's Magnificat*)

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

Indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
**He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his
descendants forever.”**

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“God’s Love Lifts Us Up!”

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

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)

THE ORDER OF HEALING

Sentences of Scripture

Blessing of Oil

Act of Anointing *(You are invited to come forward to be anointed with oil as a way of receiving God's healing during the holiday season. If you choose not to come forward, then remain seated in a time of prayer and reflection.)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR HEALING

We give praise and thanks to you, O God! In Jesus Christ, you have given us life; brought ministry, forgiveness, healing, and peace; commanded the disciples to heal the sick; and continued the healing ministry among us to this day. Keep us mindful of your love and mercy that we may be faithful throughout all our days, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us physically and spiritually, and for caring for us like a shepherd. We present our offerings as an act of gratitude. What we can never repay we pause to appreciate. May these offerings do far more than support this congregation. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through ministry in the world. 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 very right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love and for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. Born of your servant Mary, Jesus shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. As we now await the birth of the Christ child, we offer you our hymn of praise.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

(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, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

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.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" 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 everyone has communed. **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.**)*

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the Consistory and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Bob and Hedwig Hunsicker** with gratitude to the Rankin family.

The Worship Aids are given by **Jerry & Carmen Richards** in honor of our family.

Ministering Today

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Pastor | Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin |
| Lector | Rev. Jack Esbenshade |
| Money Counters | Nevin Cooley, Steve Gold, Pat Sensenig, Cherie Cataldi |
| Altar Guild | Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker, Nancy Enders |
| Building Trustee | Nevin Cooley |
| Koinonia | Christian Education |
| Ministries | Card Advent Gathering Called to Care Nancy Enders Visitation Janice Jenkins |

This Week at Trinity Church (Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

No Preschool through January 1st

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Monday | 6:15 PM—Instrumental Rehearsal |
| Tuesday | 2:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service 6:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service 10:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service |
| Wednesday | CHRISTMAS DAY (Office Closed) |
| Thursday | 6:00 PM - Scouts |
| Saturday | 8:00 PM – Alanon/AA |
| Sunday | 7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:45 AM – Koinonia 10:30 AM – Eucharist (Service of Lessons & Carols) |

Happy Birthday!

Monday – Hedwig Hunsicker, Jerry Richards

Tuesday – Penny Kilgore

Thursday – Judy Chapman

| | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Worship Attendance, December 15 | 7:45-17 | 10:30-74 | TOTAL – 91 |
| Sunday School | 15 | | |

PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jodi Keller | Janice Jenkins | Betsy Bailey |
| Rev. Dr. Carrie Call | Denise Huggins | Bob & Marlyn Wible |
| Don & Pat Miller | Mid Gockley | Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman |
| Rhonda Hartenstine | Joann Peck | Scott & Jane Owens |
| The Lehman family | Mary Lou Shaab | Carmen & Jerry Richards |
| Donna Wolf & Family | George & Ellie Latsha | Lainie Christensen |
| Sam Minder III | Erika Otthofer | Hank Fox |
| Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser | Donna Zirkel | Danielle Huggins Holbein |
| Kathleen Sensenig Adams | Betty Tyndall and family | Michael McDonough |
| Kelsey Minnich Burgo | Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline | Rev. Ken & Marilyn Trauger |
| Ron Becker | Joann & Dawn Garvin | Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman |
| Arlene Hoxworth | Mary Lou Sturgis | John Shelsky |
| Betty Fogle | Autumn Shenk | Harry & Brenda Himelwright |

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Family of Donald Nissley (brother-in-law of Don & Pat Miller and Jane Starr)

Family of Bill Butler (brother-in-law of Walt & Betty Tyndall)

Ted Gockley (son of Mid Gockley)

Gary Himelwright (son of Harry & Brenda Himelwright)

Ryan Dennes (son of Paula Dennes)

Delores Kurkowski (sister of Pat Seachrist)

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)

Rev. Pam Illick (pastor of Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg)

Colt Sborz (nephew of Kayla & John Brennan)

Nancy Scholl (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

David Haverstick (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

Dan Congelton (friend of Nancy Enders)

Audria Husted (granddaughter of Chuck & Sue Husted)

Cindy Greiman (friend of Betty Fogle)

Carmen Sweigert (friend of Rhonda Hartenstine)

Glenn Wible (nephew of Bob & Marlyn Wible/cousin of Lon Wible)
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
Carol Hooper (sister of Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen)
Marlene Harlow (friend of Gail Kogut)
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Kaitlyn, Ben, and Lucy Miller (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)
Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)
The Herr Family (Former Trinity Preschool Family)
Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong)
Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)
David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)
Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)
Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)
Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)
Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)
Harvey Sick (friend of Judy Chapman)
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)
James Malone & family
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)
Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton
World Peace

THE DECEMBER PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building. **TOMORROW IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY PARISH POST.**

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

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD: Don't forget to sign the congregational Christmas card on the table across from the church office. **TODAY IS THE DEADLINE TO SIGN THE CARD!** Thank you to Betty Tyndall for once again making the Christmas card! There is a box for you to put a monetary donation for the Herr family (a former Trinity Preschool family).

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No Sunday School classes on December 29! A Holiday Koinonia will be next Sunday at 9:45 a.m.!

SERVERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

1. Greeters for the 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., & 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services.
2. Ushers for the 6:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services.
3. Readers for the Festival of Lessons & Carols at the 10:30 a.m. service on December 29.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Chris.

DEVOTIONALS: The October-December edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance. **There are also Advent devotionals & calendars available on the table across from the church office.**

THE 2025 APPROVED BUDGET is available in the information racks on both levels of the church building.

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments. The drinks/coffee will be taken care of for you! The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT: You will again find a pink envelope in your box of offering envelopes. This is a way for you to give a Christmas gift to Pastor Rankin. If you want the pastor to receive the full amount of your gift, then you should give it directly to him. This means that the money will not go through the church treasury and you will not receive a tax deduction for your gift. All checks should be made payable to the pastor if you choose to give it to him directly.

If you choose to make your check payable to Trinity UCC, you will receive credit on your 2024 contribution statement. A gift sent through the church treasury is considered taxable income for the pastor.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Denise Pfeifer, Treasurer

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **January 12 & 19.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **January 12 & 19.** The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

SERVERS NEEDED: We are in need of greeters, ushers, and nursery care volunteers for the 10:30 worship service. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving as an usher or greeter. Please contact Betty Fogle if you are interested in serving as a nursery attendant (717-471-1026 or bettsfog@comcast.net).

“I PROMISE” FORMS are still being accepted! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2025. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SUPPORT:

We continue to support the medical mission project that was presented on September 8 by Donna Geisler and her brother-in-law, Dr. Bill Lovett.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can put money in the cans at the medical mission display table. We raise funds every year to buy medicine and supplies. Some are purchased in the US, but most are purchased in the Dominican Republic.



- \$25 buys 3 months of basic hypertension treatment for 3 people
- \$50 buys 3 months of basic diabetes therapy for 4 people
- \$100 buys 3 months of treatment for hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol for 4 people

Trinity has raised over \$3,000 so far for this project. The other way to support this project is through prayerful support.

If you have any other questions, speak with Donna Geisler!

ADVENT ENVELOPES: The Board of Deacons decided to give funds from the Advent offering envelope to the U.C.C. Christmas Fund for retired clergy, widows/widowers of U.C.C. clergy, and ministerial assistance.

LANCASTER AGO CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN DECEMBER 29, 3:00-5:00 PM

Christmas at the Organ, our annual Carol Sing, this year at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 409 Cherry St., Columbia 17512. The Midler-Hunter organ was installed in 1951, upgraded by Columbia Organ Works in 1997, and completely restored and expanded by Peragallo in 2017. The church is beautiful at Christmastime, and the acoustic of the room creates vibrant singing, making the Carol Sing one of the highlights of our year.



Christmas Poinsettias

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

| Name | # of flowers | In Honor /In memory of |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Betsy Bailey | 2 | In memory of my "daughter", Glenna Bishop |
| | | In memory of my husband, John Bailey |
| Roger & Mary Ann Bradley | 1 | In honor of our family |
| Lily & Andrew Brennan | 1 | In honor of all our grandparents |
| Nancy Crawford | 2 | In honor of Chris, Anne, Nikki, Heather, Tara, Quinn, Zach, Rachel & Andrew |
| Donna Geisler | 1 | In memory of my father, The Rev. George R. Geisler, Pastor Emeritus, Trinity UCC 1964-1989 & in memory of my mother, Janice "Danny" Geisler |
| Greg Gruber | 2 | In memory of Leon & Ethel Gruber |
| Jeff Hackenberger | 2 | In memory of parents & brother |
| Charles & Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe | 4 | To the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, Immanuel |
| Janet Harriger | 2 | In memory of my parents Dr. Miles Harriger & Dorothy J. Fasnacht |
| Hedwig & Bob Hunsicker | 2 | In memory of our parents: Verda & Paul Hunsicker, Madlene & Heinz Stege |
| Chuck & Sue Husted | 7 | In memory of Gail Boettger |
| | | In memory of Linda Haines |
| | | 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 , Hannah, Jayson</i> | | In honor of Stan & Pat Seachrist |
| Members of Trinity | 1 | Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin |
| Members of Trinity | 1 | Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant |
| Members of Trinity | 1 | Michael Slechta, Director of Music & SOT Choir Director |
| Members of Trinity | 1 | Amy Grube, Preschool Director |
| Members of Trinity | 1 | Karen Karosas, Organist |
| Members of Trinity | 1 | Michael Query, Sexton |
| Jack & Karen Olley | 2 | In honor of our family |
| | | In memory of our parents |
| John & Sarah Paulukow | 2 | In honor of St. Luke members that have become our church family. |
| | | In memory of all the special ones we have loved & lost |
| Denise Pfeiffer | 2 | In memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Montgomery |
| | | In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ken Pfeiffer |
| Pastor Chris & Anne Rankin | 3 | In honor of Zachary, Rachel, and Andrew |

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|-------------------------|---|--|
| Pastor Rankin | 2 | In honor of the Trinity Staff |
| | | In honor of the Pastor Parish Committee |
| Jerry & Carmen Richards | 1 | In honor of our family |
| Dottie Schadt | 2 | In memory of Jere R. Schadt |
| | | In memory of Kevin Schadt |
| Stan & Pat Seachrist | 2 | In honor of Sue & Chuck Husted |
| | | In memory of deceased parents |
| Autumn & Steve Shenk | 1 | In memory of Lee & Lenora Williams (Autumn's parents), Helen & Amos Shenk (Steve's parents) & Jack Williams (Autumn's brother) |



2:30 PM Service with Eucharist

6:15 p.m. Prelude/6:30 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

10:20 p.m. Prelude/10:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Eucharist

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the Staff of Trinity United Church of Christ



U.C.C. MISSION MOMENT
Moving with Mary's Song (Fourth Sunday of Advent)
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

A bit of trivia on this the fourth Sunday of Advent. What's one of the earliest Advent hymns ever to be recorded? (Hint: It's found in today's reading from Luke.)

It's Mary's song of praise, also known as The Magnificat, which is Latin for "my soul magnifies the Lord."

Mary, the teen betrothed to Joseph, whose life has been turned upside down when an angel tells her she has found favor with God and will bear a son, goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth is also with child, carrying the wilderness wandering baptizer, John.

When the two women meet, the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps with joy and she says to Mary, "Blessed are you among women!"

Such a greeting would lead any person to break out in song — as Mary does. But her words are not the maternal sentiments one might expect. Rather, 20th century German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed by the Nazis for his role in speaking out against Hitler, described Mary's song as, "the most passionate, the wildest, most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung."

This is no meek and mild Mary cast in the glow of heavenly light that we see on Christmas cards. This, says Bonhoeffer, is "the passionate and enthusiastic Mary who speaks out there."

Mary's song reminds us just what Christmas — this Christ moment — is all about. She sings of God who fills the hungry with good things. She sings of God who sends the rich away empty. She sings to the One who lifts the lowly — to the One who does great things through people like her who are often deemed unworthy.

Sadly, we live in a world where the lowly still get pushed to the side, silenced and ignored. But as Advent comes to an end — and soon we will be singing about holy and silent nights — can we take a moment once again to listen to Mary's song, believing how God is still doing great things for many Marys — and Toms, Rauls, Juans, Anitas, and you.

Yes, YOU. For God is wanting to use your life as well in making this world a better place for all.

The Magnificat is not filled with fa la las. It is a “hard, strong song,” says Bonhoeffer, one which “tells of the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind.”

And that is exactly why Mary sings it for us this day.

Amazing God, who works through us all, may this day we move with Mary's song, tapping our feet, snapping our fingers, and singing praises of how You are indeed doing great things among us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
 strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD
 his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be
 great

to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55

or Psalm 80:1-7

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world,
 he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do
 your will, O God’

(in the scroll of the book it is written of
 me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired
 nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings
 and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are
 offered according to the law), ⁹then he added,
 “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes
 the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And
 it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified
 through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
 once for all.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

In those days Mary set out and went with haste
 to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where
 she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted
 Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greet-
 ing, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth
 was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed
 with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why
 has this happened to me, that the mother of my
 Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the
 sound of your greeting, the child in my womb
 leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed
 that there would be a fulfillment of what was spo-
 ken to her by the Lord.”

[⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness
 of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will
 call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things
 for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts
 of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from
 their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our
 ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants
 forever.”]

Next Sunday’s Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52.

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