

A Moment of Music, Movement & Dance:

“Wondrous Light”
Trinity’s Dance/Movement Choir

J. Leavitt

***Hymn:**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

UMH#239

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the Angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

*(As you leave the sanctuary, please extinguish your candle with care before moving from the pew.
Candles may be returned the candles to the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary.)*

Benediction:

Postlude:

“In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach

Christmas is a special time to express appreciation to one another for being who and what we are.
Our minister and staff thank you as a congregation for all you mean to us.
We pray that you all will have a happy and blessed Christmas season.

We thank those who participated in today’s service:

Acolyte: Tina Warren

Accompanist: Vera Baker

Altar Guild: Chad & Phyllis Thompson

Liturgist: Rob Powell

Soloist: Teri LaFleur

Ushers: Margo Sweetland, Karen Andros, Lisa Bakowski, Deb Garth

Video Team: Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Anthony & Nicholas Skridulas

Please Pray for:

Borys B, James B (Bridget’s brother), Vonda B (Chad T’s sister), the C family, Marilyn C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C (Matt’s mother), Leslie D (friend of Mary Beth V), Dominick E, Blair J (Brenda L’s grandson), John K, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine’s sister-in-law), Velma Me, Dorothy M, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Nancy S, Jody F (Shannon Frederick’s mother), Lynn T, Mary (Twining) G (Nate T’s sister & Camille’s sister-in-law), Alison W, Andrew W (Phyllis T’s nephew), Courtney H (Sheila W’s daughter), our service men, women & their families, those affected by gun violence & natural disasters.

Trinity United Methodist Church

361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

www.trinityspringfield.org

Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Michael Carney

Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell

Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern

District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe

Bishop, Sudarshana Devadhar



7:30 p.m.



Believing that all persons are created in God’s image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus’ message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.



Celebrate God’s love

Nurture relationships with God and one another

Serve our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

Christmas Eve - 2022

December 24, 2022

7:30 p.m.

Meditation:

“Of all the messages God seems to have been trying to get through to us across the centuries, none has been repeated more often I would guess than this: The God of Moses and the God of the Manger can be counted on forever to appear in the most unlikely of places.” -- Bishop Melvin Wheatly

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT TO WORSHIP

** Those who are able are invited to stand. * Items in bold are read in unison.*

We are invited to observe silence during the prelude. Please turn off cell phones.

If you have a prayer request, please write it on a “Prayer Card” found in the card rack, and place it in the offering plate.

All prayer requests will be lifted up during the Wednesday morning prayer meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Prelude: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ES IST EIN ROS' arr. M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

(New visitors only please fill out the blue paper in the red folder. Others, please sign the white attendance sheets.)

Introit: “Love Came Down at Christmas” N. Grundahl

*Call to Worship:

One: Dazzling Lights on a dark night.

Many: Angelic songs on a silent night.

One: Wonderful news!

Many: Surprising goodness.

One: The promised Messiah is born!

Many: The Prince of Peace has come.

One: Rejoice! For on this star-bright, holy night—

Many: The angels still sing!

One: They bid us to look in the midst of the ordinary.

Many: They call us to look into the eyes of a child and see God.

One: They urge us to sing and dance all the way to Bethlehem.

Many: Rejoice! For in this star-bright, holy night, the angels still sing.

***Opening Hymn:** “Joy to the World!” UMH#246

***Opening Prayer:** (umcdiscipleship.org)

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors.” This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

Special Music: “Angels We Have Heard On High” GLORIA arr. K. Brengle

Lighting of the Christ Candle: The Calhoun family

*Passing the Peace of Christ

(To help us be a warm and caring spiritual home, please take a few moments to greet on another in Christian love. A historical Christian greeting would be: “The Peace of Christ be with you. “And also, with you.”)

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S WORD TO US

Children’s Moment Rob Powell

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

***Hymn:** “What Child Is This?” UMH# 219

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9: 2-7 (KJV) & Luke 2: 8-20 (KJV)

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us, **thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “A Wondrous Gift Is Given!” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

Jesus was born into poverty and simplicity in a manger. Despite the little he had, Jesus still spent the rest of his days on earth giving to others. Generosity is in the foundation of our faith. Let us give our tithes and our offerings now.

Offertory: Mary, Did You Know? M. Lowry, B. Greene arr. C. Courtney

***Doxology:** UMH# 94

(The congregation is invited to join in singing Silent Night. The dancers will start the lighting of the candles.

Please “pass the light” by tipping the non-lit candle into the lit candle to those near you.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

(Adapted from Parish Resources)

Receive these gifts, Lord Jesus, which are offered in the same spirit that the magi offered gold, frankincense and myrrh, as we come before you in humble gratitude for your gift of life. Take them and us, we pray, for the building up of your kingdom. Amen.