

*(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.)*

***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: "Three French Carols" arr. L. Smith

✠ *Liturgy by A Sanctified Art.*

Advent Wreath and Manger: Ken Guerin

Altar Guild: Chad & Phyllis Thompson

Acolytes: Felix, Fiona & Meriel Everett

Liturgist: Leslie Hastings

Musicians: Dan Fleury, trumpet, Janet Dixon-Metcalf, flute, Hannah Rosenman, soloist

Ushers: Head Usher; Sheila Womble, **Ushers;** Ginger Elliott Deb Garth, Ray Miller

Video Team: Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Eric Wing

Worship Continues this Sacred Night:

11:00 PM: Join us for a service proclaiming the Good News of Christ's birth in word, story, movement, and song. A celebration of the story of Christ's birth in lessons and carols will conclude with a beautiful candle lighting ceremony.

Trinity United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

361 Sumner Ave. Springfield, MA 01108 • 413-737-5311 • www.trinityspringfield.org

Rev. René Perez, Pastor

Michael Carney, Director of Music Ministries

Rob Powell, Director of Family Ministries and Communications

Cathy MacGovern, Spiritual Director

*OUR MISSION: celebrate God's love, nurture relationships with God and one another,
and serve our community and world as we share the light of Christ.*



WORSHIP SERVICE – CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

7:30 p.m.

***Stand if you are able.**

PRELUDE: “Away in a Manger” arr. D. Avey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT: “Aleluia Brasileira” R. Manuel

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: An unmarried teenage girl was invited— to carry Christ into this world.

P: An ordinary carpenter was invited - to be a father to a child unlike any other.

L: The shepherds were invited - outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

P: The Magi were invited - foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

L: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

P: Then we can trust that we too are invited.

L: This story is for us.

P: This love is for us.

L: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

P: Amen.

***HYMN** “Joy to the World” UMH #246

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we’ve heard this story a million times— Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds. We’ve heard it a million times, but we want to hear it like it’s the first. So move among us. Circle back. Draw close. Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness. Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us with curiosity, joy, and hope. This is an invitation. Come be here with us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – CHRIST CANDLE Rosenman Family

A: In God’s house, there is hope— For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.
We light the candle of hope.

B: In God’s house, there is peace— For all that separates us from God falls away.
We light the candle of peace.

A: In God’s house, there is joy— Because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God’s fingerprints, then God’s house surely exudes joy.
We light the candle of joy.

B: In God’s house, there is love— Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all. We light the candle of love.

A: And in the center of our hope and in the center of our peace,

B: In the center of our joy and in the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.

A: So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God’s love just could not stay away.

B: Welcome home. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” arr. D. Blackwell

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PASTORAL PRAYER, JOYS AND CONCERNS AND 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.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 54-55

***HYMN** “Angels We Have Heard on High” UMH#238

THE MESSAGE “Welcome Home”

INVITATION TO OFFERING:

Jesus was not born in a real home. He was born into poverty. He was born into simplicity. He was born into a manger in Bethlehem. And despite the little he might have had, Jesus still spent the rest of his days on earth giving to others. Generosity is in the DNA of our faith. We give what we can, not because we should or because scripture says to. We give because we’re family. We give because we belong to one another. We give because all are invited into God’s house. So let us give our tithes and our offerings now.

OFFERTORY “Mary Did You Know?” Lowry, Greene, Schrader
Trinity Chamberettes

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Gracious God, Your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves, to take up space, to go where we feel called, and to allow this community to feel like home. So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF MUSIC, MOVEMENT AND DANCE

“What Child is This”
Trinity’s Dance Movement Choir