

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering: - *Discipleship Ministries*

Gracious God in this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Offertory Anthem:

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” - Es ist ein Ros

Melody from Old Catholic Songbook, 1599 arr. by Howard Helvey (Text may be found at UMH# 216)

Doxology

UMH #94

Prayer of Thanksgiving: - *David S. Bell Resources*

Lord Jesus, we offer our gifts to you today, trusting in your promise that you are indeed the One who heals, who proclaims good news to the poor, and who brings hope to those in despair. As we give, we are reminded of your humble presence in the world and your invitation to follow you with hearts full of trust and faith. May our offerings reflect the joy we find in the assurance that all things are made new through your love for us. We pray in your holy name. **Amen.**

***Hymn:**

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

TFWS# 2098

Benediction

Postlude:

“Fugue in d minor”

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

This week, the choir sings two ancient melodies, *O come, O come Emmanuel* and *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, set for 4-part choir. Both texts speak of Christians waiting for Jesus' birth and highlight our Advent theme of Quiet Anticipation. The organ prelude is a large setting of the German Chorale, Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Saviour of the Nations Come), by J. S. Bach. The ornamented melody can be heard on a solo stop on the organ.

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Adeline and Anja Berke, Nii-Lante Bruce

Altar Flowers: In memory of Allen H. A, father of Alexander and Marcello A and husband of Sandra A. C

Altar Ministry: Lisa Everett and family

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Fellowship Hour: Volunteers

Liturgist: Cyndi LeDoux

Ushers: Head Usher, Lisa Bakowski; Asst. Head Usher, Sheila Womble, Jo Anne Evans, Ann Guyotte, Kathy Hathaway, Margo Sweetland

Video Team: Brian and Samuel Crawford, Eric Mazzarella, Nic Odell, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

Please Pray for: Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Natalie B, Mary C, Pat D, David F, Mark F, Courtney H, Pete L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Diane M, Carlos M, Herb M, Michelle O, Holly Joy P, Les P, Catherine Ann R, Jen R, Sue S and family, Carl S, Lynn T, Rev. T, Allie W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.

Trinity United Methodist Church

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Bishop, Thomas J. Bickerton

District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe

Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Bruce Glenney

Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell, M.Div

Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern



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

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME

We worship using this liturgy and two songbooks: The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) and The Faith We Sing (TFWS). Please silence your electronic devices. Nursery care is downstairs for children birth - 4 years. *Please stand in body or in spirit. Items in bold are read in unison.

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE FOR A TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

“Out of the Darkness, Into the Light: The time before Christmas is the time of light and mutual love.”
– Kristian Goldmund Aumann

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Nun komm der Heiden Heiland” (Saviour of the Nations Come) J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Introit: “O Come to Us, Emmanuel”
O come to us, Emmanuel, deliver us we pray. O come to us Emmanuel, restore our joy today. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmauel, shall come to thee and ransom Israel. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*Call to Worship: – RE Worship
Leader: In the midst of the barren land,
People: flowers burst into bloom.
Leader: In the midst of the dry desert,
People: streams of water gush forth.
Leader: In the midst of sorrow and sighing,
People: joy and gladness dance together.
Leader: We shall see the glory of God!

*Hymn: “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” UMH# 203

*Unison Prayer of Confession: – Rev. Mia M. McClain, senior pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C.
God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can’t fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.

*Words of Assurance: – Rev. Mia M. McClain, senior pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C.
In this season of desolation and uncertainty, it is good to know that God’s love for us is sure—that God’s commitment to us is definite—that God is guiding us as the compassionate companions that we are called to be for each other. Let us live into this gift. Amen.

*Response: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” UMH# 196

Anthem: “O Come, Emmanuel” - Words, 9th cent. Latin, music 15th cent. French
arr. by Elaine Hagenberg - Text may be found at UMH# 211 (vv. 1, 6, 7)

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Lyn Nolan
“The King of Glory Comes” (v. 3) TFWS# 2091

Passing the Peace of Christ

Children’s Moment

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Adeline and Jericho
Dear God, we thank You for the gifts of Adeline and Jericho to raise, their lives to share, their minds to help mold, their body to nurture, and their spirit to enrich. Let us never betray their trust, dampen their hopes, or discourage their dreams. Help us dear God to help these precious children become all You mean them to be. Let Your grace and love fall on them like a gentle breeze and give them inner strength, peace, and patience for the journey ahead. Amen.

Baptism Music: “God Claims You” TFWS# 2249
Refrain: Adeline and Jericho God claims you, helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

Pastoral Prayer, Joys and Concerns

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.

Choral Response: “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”
Hear our prayer O Lord; Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.

*Hymn: “It Came upon a Midnight Clear” UMH# 218
(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11(NRSV) N.T. pp. 10-11

Response to the Word:
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Are You the One?” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun