

Offertory Anthem: “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” Basque Carol arr. by John Leavitt
*The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came, His Wings As Drifted Snow, His Eyes As Flame,
“All Hail”, Said He, “Thou Lowly Maiden Mary, Most Highly Favored Lady,” Gloria, Gloria!*
*“For Known A Blessed Mother Thou Shalt Be, All Generations Laud And Honor Thee,
Thy Son Shall Be Emmanuel, By Seers Foretold. Most Highly Favored Lady,” Gloria, Gloria!*
*Then Gentle Mary Meekly Bowed Her Head, “To Me Be As It Pleased God,” She Said,
“My Soul Shall Laud And Magnify His Holy Name,” Most Highly Favored Lady, Gloria, Gloria!*
*Of Her, Emmanuel, The Child, Was Born. In Bethlehem, All On A Christmas Morn, And Christian Folk
Throughout The World Will Ever Say, Most Highly Favored Lady, Gloria! Gloria!*

***Doxology** UMH #94

Prayer of Thanksgiving: – *Worship Box Resources*
Gracious God, we remember that we are called to belong to you. As we offer our gifts, we dedicate them to your service and the spread of your good news. May our lives reflect the grace and peace that we are about to receive again through the birth of Baby Jesus. Strengthen us to live lives of faithfulness and to use these offerings for impact across the global community. In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen.**

***Hymn:** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” UMH# 211

Benediction

Postlude: “Organ Pieces for the Magnificat” Jean-Adam Guilain (1680-1739)
“Prelude from the Magnificat Suite on the Second Tone”

We thank those who participated in today’s service:
Accompanist: Steve Hays
Acolytes: Audrey Crawford, Meriel Everett, Aisla Varnon
Altar Poinsettias: Given in love in memory and honor by the names on the insert
Altar Ministry: Shonali Bhajjan and Bev Rzewnicki
Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie
Handbell Choir
Fellowship Hour: Volunteers
Flute: Kyle LaFleur
Liturgist: Andrew Berke
Ushers: Head Usher, Lisa Bakowski; Asst. Head Usher, Sheila Womble, Karen Andros, Wendy Regan, Ian Smythe, Judy Wing
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 Glenn
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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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. Items italicized are sung by the choir.

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

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.” – Mother Teresa (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Advent Suite” arr. for bells by Sondra K. Tucker
I. Comfort, Comfort These My People - Freu dich Sehr, Genevan Psalter 1551
II. Prepare the Royal Highway -Bereden vag for Herran, Swedish 17th cent. tune

Introit: “Light One Candle” words and music by Natalie Sleeth
Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
God brings hope to ev’ry one. God comes, God comes!
(peace, love, joy)

*Call to Worship: – Design Studio Dr. Marsha McPhee
Leader: God’s Spirit has led us here.
People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is PEACE.
Leader: God’s Spirit has led us here.
People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.
Leader: God’s Spirit has led us here.
People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is JOY.
Leader: God’s Spirit has led us here.
People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LOVE.
Leader: There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
People: And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!

*Hymn: “Once in Royal David’s City” UMH# 250

*Unison Prayer of Confession: – Written by Rev. Jan Brooks, Cottonwood Falls Presbyterian Church
O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy; you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

*Words of Assurance: – Ministry Matters Resources
God comes to us in dreams and visions, in prophecies and affirmations, in longing and in hope, in salvation through a little child. Claim this promise for yourself, and let God's healing love fill you this day. Amen.

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

Anthem: “Savior of the Nations, Come” Nun kom, der Heiden Heiland, Johann Walter, 1524

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Jennifer and Sean Rowell and Paul Gourinski
“The King of Glory Comes” (v.1) TFWS# 2091

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Children’s Moment

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: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” UMH# 230
(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25 (NRSV) N.T. p. 1

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

Sermon: “A Courageous Dreamer” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering: – Discipleship Ministries
Giver of all good gifts, bless the offering we make this morning, a small token to all the blessings you have poured down on us. Into our human weakness, you gave the greatest gift of all: Emmanuel, your presence with us, in Jesus the Christ. Not just a presence, but an invitation: through him, to be your children and heirs to your Kingdom. May our gifts, hymns, prayers, and promises help us realize that Kingdom in our hearts and in our world. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.