

Offertory Anthem: “The People who walked in Darkness” Text by Michael Barrett
music by David Angerman

*The people who walked in darkness; the people in shadows will see a great light.
The people live in the valley of death, Light will come to you. Alleluia.*

Refrain: *O come Emmanuel. Savior of the nations, come.*

*The people who walked in darkness; the people in shadows will see a great light.
The people live in the valley of death, Light will come to you. O come Emmanuel.*

*The valleys shall be exalted. Let Zion sing to the Lord and rejoice.
Let ev'ry mountain be brought low. Come sing to the Lord and proclaim His Name.
The crooked places all will be made straight. All places rough will be made plain.*

*The people who walked in darkness; the people in shadows will see a great light.
The people live in the valley of death, Light will come to you. (Refrain)*

The people who walked in darkness, Light will come to you.

Doxology UMH #94

Prayer of Thanksgiving: – *Discipleship Ministries*
Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and joy to our world. Surprise us with your presence and help us to look up, to pay attention, and to embrace the hope you bring. In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen.**

***Hymn:** “Marching to Zion” UMH# 733

Benediction

Postlude: “Toccata in e minor” Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

We thank those who participated in today’s service:
Acolytes: Audrey Crawford, Meriel Everett, Aisla Varnon
Altar Flowers: In memory of Arthur, Sue, Skip and Stephen B and Elaine and Richard S, from the B and S family.
Altar Ministry: Susan Cartier-Barrett and Jennifer Rowell
Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie
Fellowship Hour: The Membership & Evangelism Committee and volunteers
Liturgist: Lisa Everett
Ushers: Head Usher, Lisa Bakowski; Asst. Head Usher, Sheila Womble, Jacki Barden, Ginger Elliott, Deb Garth
Video Team: Brian Crawford, Samuel Crawford, Eric Mazzarella, Nic Odell, Anthony & Nicholas Skridulas

Please Pray for: James A, Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Natalie B, Mary C, Dominick E, D, Mark F, Sophia G, Courtney H, Pete L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Diane M, Carlos M, Herb M, Holly Joy P, Les P, Catherine Ann R, Jen R, Sue S and the family of the Rev. Dr. Henry (Bing) S, 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 First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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

“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” (Awake, a voice is calling us) 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
One: In the midst of waiting, God sends an invitation.

All: The twinkle of a candle in the window bids us welcome home.
One: The gate swings wide open.

All: The pile of rocks at the side of the road signals a smooth path.
One: All is ready, listen! Hear the flutter of angel wings. Come and worship.

All: Let us worship with joy!

*Hymn: “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” UMH# 213

*Unison Prayer of Confession: – Lavon Baylor in Ruth Duck, Flames of the Spirit, Pilgrim Press, 1985, p. 15
We confess, Surprising God, that our sense of anticipation has been dulled. We have ceased to expect any wonders from your hand. We do not see the marvels around us in the people and happenings we view as commonplace. We are not alert to your presence or your action on our behalf. Wake us up, God, lest sleep be our death. Pardon and redeem us, that we may escape the judgment we are bringing on ourselves. Send your light that it may shine through us into a needy world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Words of Assurance: – Lavon Baylor in Ruth Duck, Flames of the Spirit, Pilgrim Press, 1985, p. 15
Friends, let us proclaim the Good News: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Let us go out into the world as people made new by God. Amen.

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

Anthem: “Advent Canticle” Text by Gene Grier, music by Douglas Wagner
Watchman, tell us of the night. What glad tidings do you bring? Will it be a glorious sight? Will the church bells ring? Will the angels sing? Watchman, will the King appear, Son of God, for all to see? Will it be a midnight clear? He comes for you and me, To live and set us free. Alleluia, alleluia, Lo, He comes, Lo He comes. Alleluia, alleluia, Blessed One. O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel; That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel. Watchman, will the King appear, Son of God, for all to see? Will it be a midnight clear? He comes for you and me, To live and set us free.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Lauren Lachut
“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 Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH# 211
(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 45: 1-9 & Mark 13: 24-37 (NRSV) O.T. p. 634 & N.T. pp. 47-48

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

Sermon: “Stay Awake, Watch, and Pray” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering: – Discipleship Ministries
Great God of wonderful surprises: we enter this season of preparation for your Son’s coming, looking not for just a memory of past events but anticipating a return. The master is near. We strive to get our lives in order and pray that our giving of ourselves to these preparations might reflect the earth-shaking importance of his coming. Help us to give ourselves generously, for we do not know the time -- day or the hour. We pray in the name of the one who will come. Amen.