

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** *-Bread of Life Resources*

O God, as we offer our gifts this evening, we remember the birth of your Son, Jesus, and the joy that filled the world when he came to dwell among us. Just as the angels proclaimed his birth with glad tidings of great joy, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts. May these offerings reflect our joy in Christ, our Savior, and our desire to share his love with others. We pray that these resources will be used to bring hope and peace, just as Christ brought hope to the world. In his precious name, we pray. **Amen.**

**Offering of Music, Movement & Dance:** “I Wonder as I Wander” Trinity’s Dance/Movement Choir

*(The congregation is invited to stand and 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!**

*(At the conclusion of the hymn, please extinguish your candle with care.  
Candles may be returned the candles to the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary.)*

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

**Benediction:**

**Postlude:** “O, Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. by Michael Burkhard (b. 1957)

*We are worshipping tonight using this liturgy & the red United Methodist Hymnal (UMH.) Please silence your electronic devices \*Please stand in body or in spirit. **Items in bold are read in unison.** Items italicized are sung by the choir. Prayer cards in the pews can be filled out and put in the offering plate to be lifted up on Wednesday morning prayer group.*

The text of the anthem, "See amid the Winter's snow", was written by an English clergyman, Edward Caswall in 1858, and set to music by Sir John Goss, the organist/choirmaster of St. Paul's Cathedral, London in 1861. The contemporary American composer, Dan Forrest, arranged this beautiful tune for mixed choir in 2015. The tune and text have become well-known throughout the English speaking world.

**We thank those who participated in today’s service:**

**Accompanist:** Steve Hays

**Acolytes:** Sam Crawford, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

**Chamber Choir**

**Flautist:** Janet Dixon-Metcalf

**Liturgist:** Zoe Calhoun

**Ushers:** Lisa Bakowski; Head Usher, Karen Andros, Jacki Barden, Ray Miller, Margo Sweetland,

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

**Worship Continues this Sacred Night, 10:00 p.m.:** Join us for a service proclaiming the Good News of Christ’s birth in word, story 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**

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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 Glenny*

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

*Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern*



**8:00 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.*

WELCOME

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship. We thank God for each person here tonight. Our church’s mission is to celebrate God’s love, nurture relationships with God and one another and serve our community and world, as we share the light of Christ. With cheerful hearts we welcome you to join us in this endeavor. May God bless you and those you love with a holy Christmas and a happy, Christ-filled New Year. Please come again!

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

Welcome

Prelude:“Gesu Bambino”Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)

Introit:“In the Bleak Midwinter”arr. by Michael Carney  
The text may be found at UMH# 221

**\*Call to Worship:** - *written by Rev. Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies*  
Leader: To us, watchful and waiting, a gift has been slipped into our midst.  
**People: A tiny child, born in a manger,**  
Leader: A gift of peace to troubled souls and dangerous streets,  
**People: A gift of joy to sad hearts and cautious lives,**  
Leader: A gift of hope to wearied brows and oppressed peoples.  
**People: A tiny baby.**  
Leader: A gift from God  
**People: Meant for us.**  
Leader: Open your hearts,  
**People: Raise your voices,**  
Leader: Give thanks to the Giver,  
**People: Welcome the Gift!**

**\*Hymn:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vv. 1, 2, 3, 6) UMH# 234

**\*Opening Prayer:** -*Worship Resources*  
**Holy God, in the manger we see your love, and we are never the same, never alone, never forgotten. We have your peace tonight, your joy forever and your constant love. We thank you for this community, which lights candles, sings carols and puts faith into action. We thank you for hope kindled, peace restored and visions of a new world. God of Christmas blessings, we thank you. Amen.**

Choir Anthem:“Torches”Jean Joubert (1928-2015)

*Torches, torches, run with torches all the way to Bethlehem! Christ is born and now lies sleeping: Come and sing your song to him! Ah, roro,roro, my baby, ah, roro, my love.roro: Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, while we sing to you our roro. Sing, my friends, and make you merry, Joy and mirth and joy again; Lo! He lives, the King of Heaven, now and evermore. Amen.*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** The Calhoun family

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

**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.**

Choral Response“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

*Hear our prayer O Lord; Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.*

**\*Hymn:** “Away in a Manger” UMH# 217

Old Testament Reading:Isaiah 9: 2-7 (KJV)

New Testament Reading:Luke 2: 8-15 (KJV)

**Response to the Word:**  
**Leader:** The Word of God for the People of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Christmas Meditation:** “Reflections on Christmas” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

**Invitation to Offering:** - *Discipleship Resources*  
Radiant God of holy interruptions, in the stillness of night and the chaos of our days, you slip into our world with glory wrapped in swaddling cloth. Like the shepherds, we come breathless, humbled, and hoping—to offer what we have. May these gifts we gather be signs of our gratitude and trust. May they help announce your peace on earth, not with trumpets and headlines, but with justice, compassion, and shared burdens. Let the offering we bring to you be the beginning of the offering we make with our lives in response to the child who changes everything. In Jesus’ name, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

**Offertory:** “See Amid the Winter's Snow” Text: Edward Caswall (1858), music by Dan Forrest (b.1978)  
*See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see the tender Lamb appears, promised from Eternal years. (refrain)*

***Refrain:** Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

*Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies; He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim! (refrain)*

*Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine, thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this! (refrain)*

**\*Doxology** UMH# 94