

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve

8:00pm

Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. We seek to offer a warm greeting to our visitors, whether you are visiting the area or seeking a church family. To assist you as you worship, we have large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Please see an usher for assistance. We would be happy for you to sign the guest book in the gathering area while you are with us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, we are glad that you have come, and pray that you will be blessed by your worship experience. Come and see what God is doing!

denotes the congregation standing as you are able; congregational responses in **bold print*

Once, during the hours of a quiet, starlit night above the hills of Bethlehem, a strange voice announced news that this world will never forget. To a few shepherds then -- and to all the world eventually -- that voice said, "Behold! I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be to all people..." In this holy evening we hear the good news with humility and awe, for to us a child is born who would show us the way to live at peace with God and in harmony with one another. This particular piece of news is especially good because it is good for all people in all time. For almost two thousand years it has occupied an uppermost place in human thought. And now this evening, it is because of this good news that we are gathered here. Think about it again, ponder it anew, give thanks for it and rejoice in it -- and prepare to share with all others wherever you can.

PRELUDE -- "In Dulci Jubilo" -- *J. S. Bach*

CHOIR PROCESSIONAL - "Once in Royal David's City"

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

For a child has been born to us. He is our Wonderful Counselor.

In him the world has a Savior. He is our Mighty God.

His word is filled with life, power, and truth. He is our Everlasting Father.

He brings his justice to set things right. He is our Prince of Peace.

He shall reign forever and ever. Before him all nations will rejoice.

For a Son has been given for us. Come and let us adore him.

We light four candles:

The first reminds us of our need for a Savior to light our way.

The second reminds us to open our hearts to the promises in God's Word.

The third reminds us that the Messiah will bring justice and peace.

The fourth reminds us of our trust that God's reign is for all people.

This evening we light the Christ candle. We celebrate the birth of our Savior.

He is the light of the world. May his light shine upon us and within us and through us.

Come and let us adore him.

***Carol # 8 "O Come All Ye Faithful" (red)**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Birth Foretold by the Prophet

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 **Megan Poland**

Carol # 6 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" *(red)*

"A Gaelic Rose"

Arr. By Mark Hayes

Senior Choir

Georgia Hollabaugh, Flute

The Birth Foretold by the Angel

St. Luke 1: 26-33 **Elliot Redding**

Carol # 12 "What Child Is This" *(red)*

"O Holy Night"

Arr. By Steven Porter

Senior Choir

The Birth in Bethlehem

St. Luke 2: 1-7 **Lauren Dolly**

Carol # 9 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *(red - verses 1 to 3)*

"How Quietly"

By Joel Raney

Senior Choir

The Good News is Made Known

St. Luke 2: 8-14 **Adrienne Chase**

Carol # 2 "Angels We Have Heard on High" *(red)*

"Noel Peace Canon"

Arr. By Ruth Elaine Schram

Senior Choir

Arrival at the Manger

St. Luke 2: 15-16 **Mackenzie Kretz**

Carol # 5 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *(red)*

"He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child"

Arr. By Lloyd Larson

Senior Choir

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*To our visitors - - the finances of the church are the responsibility of our church members.
As our guests, we ask visitors to simply pass the offering plate to the person sitting next to you in the pew.*

Offertory – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” – *P. Manz*

* Response # 3 “As With Gladness Men of Old” (*red - verse 3*)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Visitors from the East

St. Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-10 **Luke Milhimes**

Carol # 3 “As With Gladness Men of Old” (*red - verses 1-2*)

“Star of Wonder”

Arr. By Anna Laura Page and Jean Anne Shafferman

Senior Choir

John Lucas, Soloist

Georgia Hollabaugh, Flute

Gifts for the Child

St. Matthew 2: 11 **Luke Milhimes**

Carol #10 “The First Noel” (*red - verses 3-5*)

“Fit For a King”

Joseph M. Martin

Senior Choir

*CANDLELIGHTING

INTRODUCTION

* **Carol # 11 “Stille Nacht”** (*red*)

Peter Kuhn will sing the first verse of “Silent Night” in German, with the congregation joining in for the second and third verses. We shall repeat the first verse as a congregation while raising your candles.

Peter Kuhn, Soloist

Don Walsh, Guitar

*BENEDICTION

***Recessional Carol # 7 “Joy to the World”** (*red*)

POSTLUDE – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” – *D. Buxtehude*

**** *Please feel free to take your Poinsettia’s home this evening after the service.*

Greeters: **Barbara & Oscar Spicer**

Ushers: **Heather & Demetrius Carbaugh, Ron & Elaine Milhimes**

Acolytes: **Cole Milhimes and Luke Milhimes**

Organist: **Jane Eiker**