

Today's liturgical color is white which symbolizes "Joy and Festivities."

To help promote the happenings in our church, you can share our services and events to the community on your Facebook page.

Prelude: You Crown the Year by Reuben Morgan and Brook Ligertwood

Lighting of the Candles

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community.

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

Christ is born; give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven; receive Him!
Christ is now on earth; exalt Him!

Announcements (*noted within the bulletin)

A Time for Prayer:

Scripture to encouragement: 1 Chronicles 16:11

¹¹Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Tim

Opening Hymn: Joy to the World **No. 246**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 CEB

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ²They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

³When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶*You Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Gloria Patri **No. 70**

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
A-men. A-men

Children's Moment: led by Tim
At this time, children come forward or you can bring your child to the front pew to hear and participate in the children's reflection.

Scripture about the importance of having childlike faith in Jesus:
Matthew 18:1-3 CEB

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

²Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, ³and said, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Presentation of Tithes and Offering
(Thank you for your generosity!)

Ushers: Men's Team (Bill W., Ruben A., John H., and Luther C.)

In the Bleak Midwinter by Christina G. Rossetti **No. 221 (4)**

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet
what I can I give, give my heart.

Offertory Prayer

Humbled Lord,

you surrendered the riches of heaven's palace
for poverty of Bethlehem's manger:
as we offer you our gifts in thanksgiving for your gift,
make us imitators of you in generosity and love,
for the sake of the world you love so much,
and for your Father's glory.
Amen.

Offertory Music: Fantasia on a Christmas Carol arranged by Rick Graham

Doxology **No. 95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above the Heavenly Host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Special Music: Ten Thousand Joys Calli Shell and Bob Horne

Sermon: "Pray before you go" Matthew 6:16-18

Response to the Service: A Service of Word and Table **No. 13-15**

Communion Stewards: Amy G., Beth H., Erin H., and Patty R.

Communion Music: Jesus is Here by Travis Cottrell

Closing Hymn: Go Tell It On The Mountain **No. 251**

Benediction

**May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent
one from another. AMEN!**

Postlude: At the Door of the Year by Shirley Erena Murray and Jim Strathdee

Sending Forth/Extinguishing of the Candles: At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. The acolyte leaves the worship service at the pastor's direction, carrying our the lighted candle lighter. This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is on Sunday at 10 am.

Trinity Book Club is on Monday at 6 pm. The book discussion is based on the text "Enemies of the Heart" by Andy Stanley. The ISBN is 9781601421456 and you can find the book new for around \$10-15.

UPS Christmas Box Packing Party—On Sunday, December 18th, Phil Robbins led a group of 27 people in packing food and goodie Christmas boxes for the students at Union Primary School. 105 boxes with 18 items in each were packed in 1 hour. Many from our church and the community volunteered their time to make this possible.

Christmas in the Gap—It was great to see this gathering and it was a huge success! Thank you all for participating and let's continue to build and prepare for next year!

New Members Sunday—Praise the Lord for sending us such wonderful people to our church! Trinity UMC, we are "moving on up" for the glory of God. If you are interested in learning more about membership, please contact Pastor Tim.

Blessing Box—If you want to bring food or other items for the blessing box, you can place your donated items in the labeled plastic bin located in the church fellowship hall.

Children's Moment—If you are interested in being in the rotation for leading the children's lesson during the worship service, contact Tim or notify the church office staff.

Trinity Church Greeter Team—We are seeking volunteers to come in a little early on Sunday mornings about once or twice a month to serve as church greeters. Church greeters will welcome those who attend church service by handing them a bulletin and by helping guests get familiar with the church building. If you are willing to help us out, please contact Joyce Palmer or Amy Garcia.

New Church Secretary—Please congratulate Amy Garcia on joining Tiffany in becoming our new part-time secretary. Amy will be in the office 3 days a week assisting the pastor and the needs of the congregation by answering phones and completing other office and church tasks. Tiffany will still be responsible for the video and web. Amy will be starting the first week of January.

New Year and Holiday Fellowship Potluck Meal—On Sunday, January 8th after the worship service, we will have a fellowship meal. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Kathleen Gillespie.

21-Days of fasting, prayer, and healthy living—Beginning on Monday, January 9th and ending on Sunday, January 29th, Trinity UMC will be entering into a season of fasting, prayer, and healthy living such as diet and exercise for 21-days to bring in the new year with positivity, power, and motivation. During this time, we ask that you spend extra time focusing on and praying for your family, friends, church, and your well-being so that you can better understand God's will for your life. We hope that ideas and plans will be made known to us by God during this season so that we can have reachable goals created and

accomplished in the year of 2023. We are excited to see what God has in store for us and after our season of fasting, praying, and healthier living we hope to have the zeal needed to put our ideas into action.

Epiphany Service 2023—This traditional service is scheduled to take place here (Trinity UMC) on Sunday, January 15th at 5 pm.

Administrative Board Meeting—Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22nd, immediately following the worship service.

Pop 'n' for Jesus—Our next popcorn and sweets giveaway at Mountain Empire Community College will take place on Wednesday, January 25th. This serves as a great opportunity to bring joy and encouragement to both the students and staff members at the school. If you are interested in helping us, please meet at the college (2nd floor of the Godwin building) at 9 am. If you have any question, contact Betty Fleenor.

Laity Sunday—Our next Laity Sunday will be Sunday, January 29th. Our lay leaders Kim Parsons and Rob Moore will oversee the service on that day. If you have any suggestions or requests for the service, please contact one of our lay leaders.

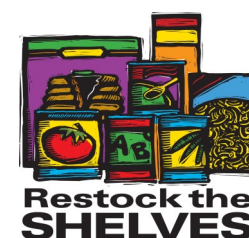
***Offering stewards for January** (5th Sunday will have a mixed team)

8th—Susan H., Alberta M., Pat B., and Angela T.
15th—Fred H., Chris S., Spencer Q., and Daniel W.
22nd—Cindy A., Susie W., Joyce P., and Amy G.
29th—Lana P., Dana B., Amy G., and Ruben A.

UPS Back Pack Program

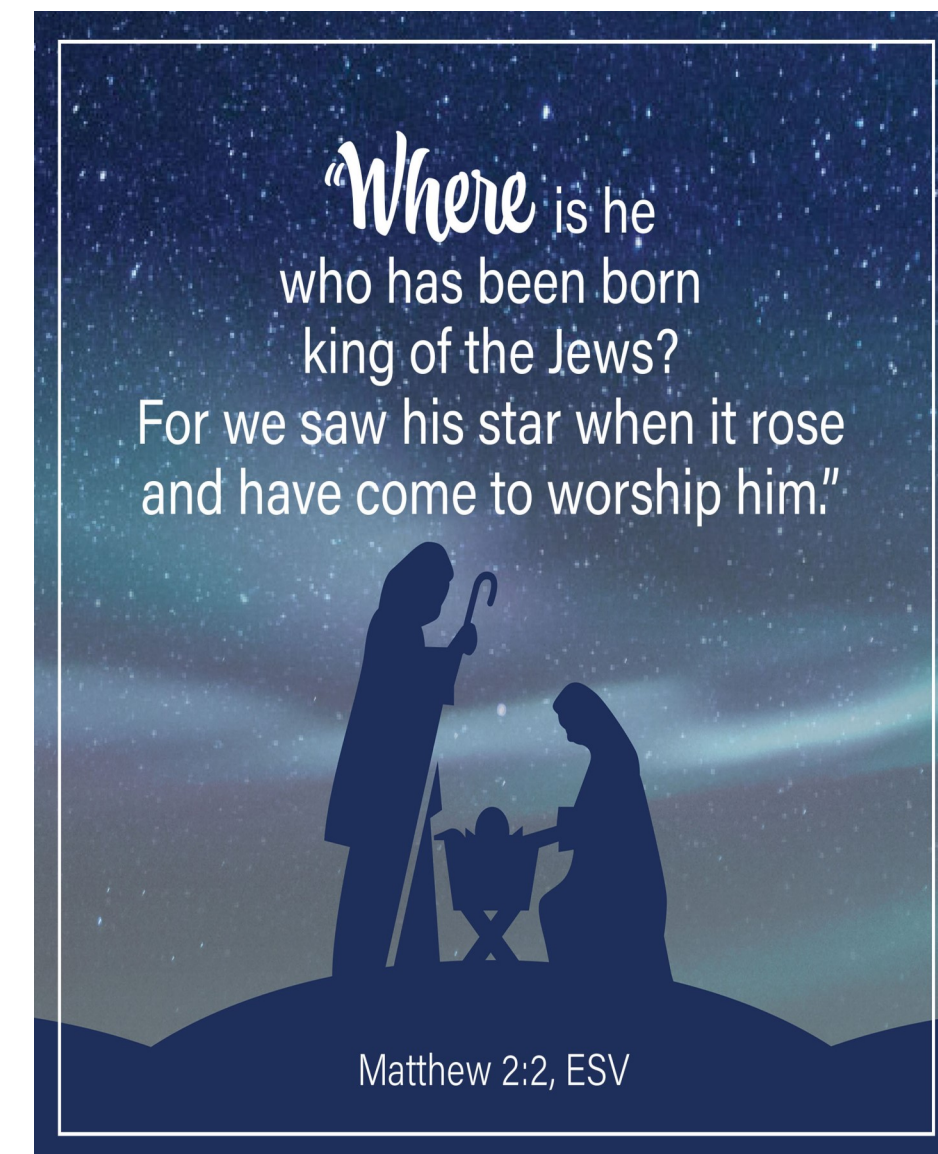
Don't forget that each month we are going to Restock the Shelves for the Union Primary School. During the month of January the requested item is Breakfast Cereal.

Bulk bags of 7-9 servings are requested.



The Trinity Companion

January 1, 2023



Trinity United Methodist Church

203 E 1st St, South
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Pastor—Rev. Timothy Robinson

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