

Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church. God loves you and so do we! Due to the increased number of cases of the COVID-19 Delta variant, we ask that both vaccinated and unvaccinated attendees wear a mask during worship services. If you do not have a mask, we have masks available for you in the narthex. The Church Council is monitoring this situation closely and will inform you of any changes in the future. We appreciate your willingness to provide a safe worship environment for all during this challenging season that we are living in.

Prelude: Hearts Waiting (Joy to the World) by Matt Redman

Lighting of the Candles

Greeting:

Praise be to God!

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
who has visited and redeemed the people.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Prayer:

In the Advent seasons, when the past has fled, unasked, away and there is nothing left to do but wait, God, shelter us.

Be our surrounding darkness;

be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time.

In uncertain times, help us to greet the dawn and labor on, love on, in faith awaiting your purpose hid in you

waiting to be born in due time. In Jesus Name,

Amen.

Choir: Light the Advent Candle

³Light the Ad-vent can-dle, three:

Think of heav'nly har-mo-ny;

An-gels singing "Peace on earth"

At the bless-ed Savior's birth.

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Third Sunday in Advent: Joy (pink)

This year, the Advent Liturgy was written by Derek Weber.

Derek will take us through a journey from being at home in Christ.

The Joy of Home

Zephaniah 3:14 & Luke 3:7-18

Reader One: It's a reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home.

Reader Two: The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth even now, even here. It is joy to go home.

Reader One: John the Baptist reminds us, however, that it takes choices to live in this joy. It doesn't just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us. We build joy as we build a home in this world and the next.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. It is time to go home.

Light three candles in the Advent wreath (purple, purple, and pink)

Choir: Refrain from "Light the Candle"

Can-dle, can-dle, burn-ing bright,

Shin-ing in the cold win-ter night:

Can-dle, can-dle, burn-ing bright,

Fill our hearts with Christ-mas light

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 211

Offertory: Luke 6:38 (NRSV)

"...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Musical Interlude: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Arranged by Greg Howlett

Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above all the Heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Special Music: O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem (chorus)

O beautiful star of Bethlehem

Shine upon earth until the glory dawns

Give us a lamp to light the way

Unto the land of perfect day

O beautiful star of Bethlehem Shine on

Sermon: "Come Holy Spirit Come" Luke 3:7-18

Closing Hymn: Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

No. 216

Benediction

Postlude: Anticipation of Christmas by Lindy Kerby

3rd Sunday
in Advent

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at 10 am.

Book Study will be in the Fellowship Hall on Monday at 6 pm. The book is "Live Like Jesus" by Putty Putnam.

No **Bible Study** this week.

No **Apprentice Book Study** this week.

In addition to our wonderful and fun float that in the Christmas parade, we are grateful for those who participated with the **hot chocolate giveaway**. This group served over 250 cups of hot chocolate to those who needed to either sweeten-up or warm-up during the event. Most importantly, Christy Smith, Lana Prater, Dennis Ashley, and Patty Robbins for serving friendly smiles and encouragement (the love of Jesus!) to the people in our community.

We congratulate and are proud of our very own **Andrew Holyfield** for being selected to the All-District Chorus. Due to this accomplishment, Andrew will participate in a choral event in February and compete for a spot with the All-Virginia State Choir.

We are happy to announce that with the reference and support from our church, **Mountain Empire Older Citizens has received a \$2,000 hunger and poverty grant from the United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network**. This money will be used to help pay for desperately needed modifications and repairs to homes of older adults in MEOC's service area. Members of our church, other local churches, and mission groups will have the opportunity to provide volunteer labor to address future home repair projects.

Please take the opportunity to view **Trinity UMC's** display for the "**Greenbelt in Lights**." The display is adjacent to the parking lot for the town soccer field (Proctor St. S) and is visible from a vehicle for those who may be unable to walk up to it.

TUMC's Youth will begin making the holiday candy trees on Sunday December 12th at 2pm. Please come enjoy Youth Fellowship and share some baking knowledge.....and some of the workload. If you have any questions, please contact Youth Leader Christy Smith.

Staff Appreciation Love Offering: We at Trinity UMC are tremendously blessed to have a wonderful staff who helps us in many ways. As tradition, we are receiving a love offering that will serve as a Christmas bonus for our staff. There will be an offering basket located at the front of the church for you to place your love offering in. After Sunday, December 19th, the offering will be divided equally

between the following individuals: Steve (custodian), Calli, Tiffany, Joyce, and Rick.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Friday, December 24th at 6 pm. As tradition, we plan to have the singing of "O Holy Night," words of encouragement, and communion. Also, we will close out the service with a candle-light vigil and the singing of "Silent Night." All are welcome to attend.

Holiday Cookies and Sweets Fellowship will be Sunday, December 19th after the worship service. Please bring your favorite homemade Christmas sweets and/or your appetite to the event. If you plan to bring a treat, please provide around fifty (50) pieces so that we will have plenty to share. Coffee, milk, and other drinks will be provided for the event. If you have any questions, please ask Kathleen Gillespie.

Poinsettias

Purchased and placed in celebration of Betty Cline's 98th birthday by John D. and Mary Lou Williams and John and Mary Kay Wilson.

Purchased and placed in memory of those who joined the church triumphant by Trinity UMC.

Purchased and placed in memory of Nilda Williams by an anonymous donor.

Church Council Update

During the Church Council meeting held last week, Trinity's financial health was discussed. Currently, there is a deficit of \$17,000 to meet the 2021 budget. Any funds that are collected for General Funds or Budget for this fiscal year will need to be dated no later than December 31st.

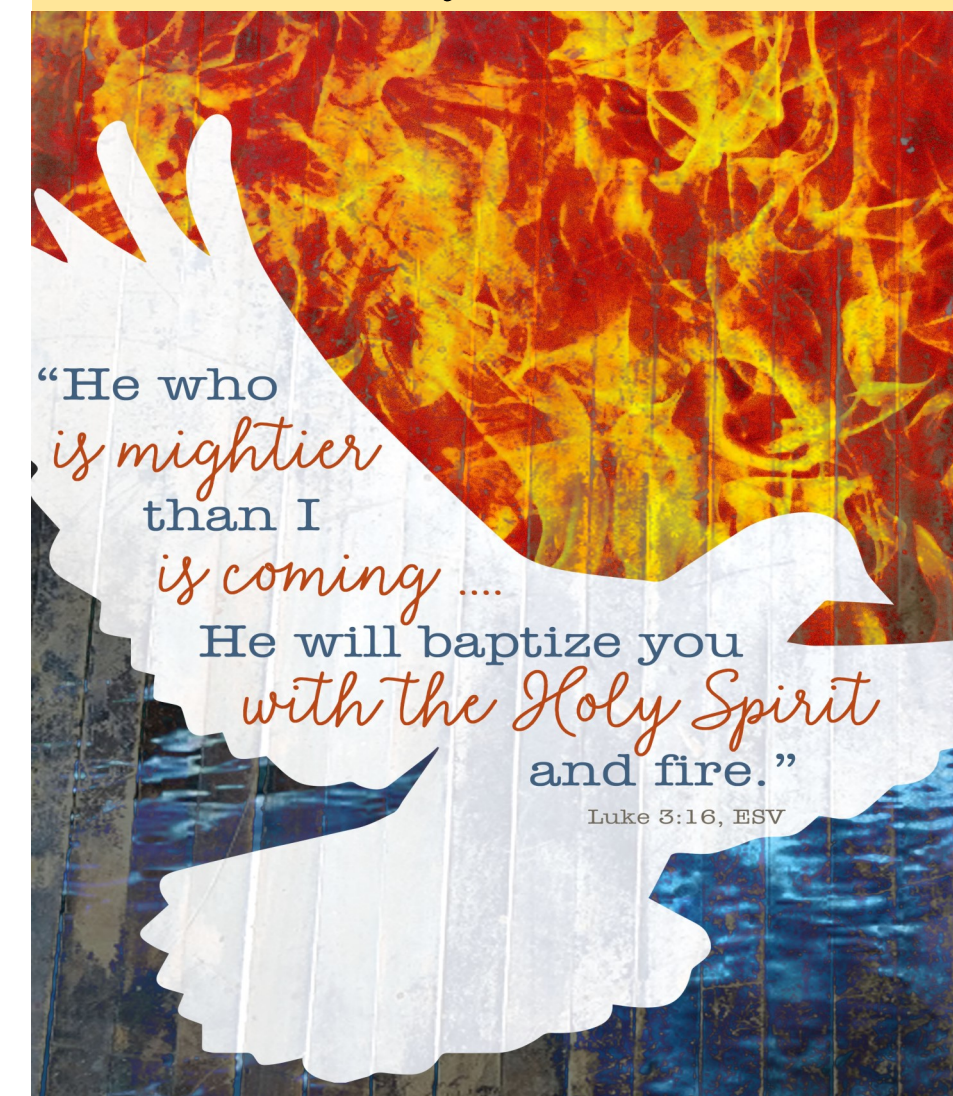
UPS Back Pack Program

Don't forget that each month we are going to Restock the Shelves for the Union Primary School Back Pack Program with a specific kind of food. The food item for December is Juice Boxes. The requested flavors are Apple and Grape.



The Trinity Companion Sunday December 12, 2021 Advent Week 3

Joy



Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Pastor—Rev. Timothy Robinson

Office: (276) 523-0789

Cell Phone & Text: (276) 393-6499

www.trinityumc-bsg.net