

Prayer of Dedication

Please join me in prayer. All: Gracious God, we pray that you would richly bless and multiply these gifts. May all who receive benefit from these gracious offerings know that you are with them. And in our giving may we know that you are with us. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Emmanuel, God with us, in our giving and our receiving. Amen.

Offertory:

* The Doxology

No. 95

Sermon:

—Pastor Terry Goodman

Choral Presentation: “O Holy Night”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Stewards: Kenny & Martha Spurlock; Kathleen Gillespie & Peggy Beverly

The Passing of the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right and good and joyful thing to give thanks to you O God.....and so with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ....

On the night he gave himself for us,.. he took bread...he took the cup..

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us here...Through your son Jesus Christ...all honor and glory is yours...now and forever. **AMEN** (Amen will be sung)

Now may we join in saying the prayer that Christ has taught us to pray:

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.

The Invitation to the Table

(Everyone is invited to participate in Holy Communion. You do not have to be a member of this church, nor do you have to be a member of the United Methodist Church. We believe that Christ sets this table and invites everyone to come and to participate in this meal.)

The Distribution of the Elements

(We will distribute the elements via Intinction. You will come forward to one of the serving stations. A piece of bread will be broken off and given to you. You will take the bread. Dip it in the cup. You will then eat the bread. You may kneel at the altar for a time of prayer or return to your seat as others are served.)

The Lighting of Candles as we Sing Silent Night

(The Ushers/Acolytes will come down the center aisle and light the candle of each person on the end. Please keep all lit candles in an upright position. Tip in the candle that is being lit and once it is lit, then place it in an upright position. Do this until everyone on your pew has a lit candle.)

Silent Night

Soloist: Bella Clendenon will sing the first verse

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 beam 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!

* Pastoral Benediction :

*Postlude:

***Please stand, as you are able**

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The Trinity Companion

Saturday December 24, 2016



Trinity United Methodist Church

203 E 1st St, South

Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Worship begins at 11:00 am

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Let me tell you how glad we are to have you at our worship service today. We hope that you will encounter the presence of the risen Christ. We'd really like to get some contact information. Would you please text your email and name to 80123 and we'll get back in touch with you.

Greeters:

***Prelude:**

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather this night to share good news and tidings of great joy!

People: Today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to us.

Leader: He is Christ the Lord!

People: With the angels, let us sing our praises.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all on whom God's favor rests!

Invocation

Holy God, come into this holy night with stars to light our way to the cradle of peace.

Come with angels to sing us to a deep joy. Come to this moment and open our hearts so we may hear the familiar story new and fresh. Surprise us and remind us that the child in the manger is Immanuel -- God with us, now and always. **Amen.**

A Reading for Christmas Eve— Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-20

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 2:1-20

² And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger;

because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Lighting the Advent Candle—The Galyean Family

(As the liturgist approaches, the hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" plays softly.)

One: As night falls, and the shadows grow long, we wait in hopeful expectation for the coming light.

All: (sing) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the child of God appear.

(Liturgist lights the Hope candle while congregation sings)

One: As war and violence swirl around us, we watch for the coming Prince of Peace.

All: (sing) O come, desire of Nations, bind all people in one heart and mind. Bid all our sad divisions cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace.

(Liturgist lights Peace candle while congregation sings)

One: As our we struggle amid the shadows and gloom, we drink deeply from the font of all joy.

All: (sing) O come, Key of David come, and open wide your heavenly home; make safe the path to endless day, to death's destruction close the way.

(Liturgist lights Joy candle while congregation sings)

One: As love seems a rare commodity in our world, we cling to the love that will not let us go.

All: (sing) O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; Love stir within the womb of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

(Liturgist lights the Love candle while congregation sings)

One: People of God, rejoice, for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: (Singing) Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel. (2x)

(Liturgist lights the Christ candle)

***Opening Hymn: "Joy to the World"**

No. 246

A Time for Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: O God, whose wondrous love took the form of a little boy:

People: We confess, honestly and sadly, our great lack of love.

Leader: We fail to love the unlovely, because the effort seems foredoomed.

People: We forget that, in your sight, none of us is lovely.

Leader: We find it hard to love our loved ones without bending, manipulating or otherwise using them.

People: We forget that, with you, love means acceptance first.

Leader: And Lord, we suspect that we do not love even ourselves properly;

People: And that the poverty of our love may reflect our failure to accept the riches of your love,

Leader: Offered to us, again and again, freely and gladly, in the form of that little boy.

People: Forgive us, merciful Lord, for his sake. Amen.

A Sharing of Our Joys, Concerns, and Thanksgivings

(Please raise your hand and an usher will come by with a microphone so that everyone will be able to hear your joy, concern or thanksgiving. After you state your concern, everyone will join together and say: Lord. In your Mercy. Hear our Prayer.)

Gloria Patri

No. 70

The Christmas Offering

Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Ushers: Jack Williams, John Hagan, Bennie Turner, Spencer Quesenberry

CALL TO OFFERING

When the shepherds met the newborn Christ, they immediately turned into preachers, choir members, and ministers. The text in Luke says, "The shepherds then returned to their fields glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard." When we encounter Jesus it is natural to want to sing, to dance, to laugh, to gasp, to give. True generosity flows not from duty, but from awe. Tonight's offering will be given in support of ministries to the Appalachian Elementary School, the Powell Valley Primary School, the Powell Valley Middle School and Union High School. Your gracious giving can be a light for those walking in shadows, it can be a hope for those in trying times, it can be love for those who feel forgotten. In the spirit of Christmas joy, please give as you are able.