

Today's liturgical color is white which symbolizes days and seasons of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ.

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

****DISCLAIMER:** *Trinity UMC utilizes videography to live stream all sanctuary worship services to social media. Service will be available for replay and images, likenesses, and audio may be captured to be used as thumbnails on each TUMC ran website. If you have any concerns, please notify the church office staff.***

Prelude: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, arranged by Greg Howlett

Lighting of the Candles

Greeting:

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
And we have seen his glory!**

Prayer:

O God, our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.

Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.

Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Light the Advent Candle

Light the Christ-mas can-dles, now:
Sing of don-key, sheep, and cow;
Birth-day can-dles for the King,
Let the al-le-lu-ias ring.

Christmas Eve: Christ

Readers: Angela and David Tipton

Reader One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "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" (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:7).

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

Light the center candle of the Advent Wreath.

(Light all candles of the wreath.)

Light the Advent Candle Chorus

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: What Child is This? **No. 219**

A Blessing of the Children

Invitation: At this time, families are welcome to bring their children to the front for a blessing.

O God, our loving parent, we thank you for each family represented here. We ask that you bless each of your children with loving families and a caring community. Bless them with a sense of your presence in their lives and with a church to help them love and know and serve you. Help them grow into faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Bless their parents and extended families and use this congregation that together we may surround them with love and live before them lives of faithfulness. We pray in the name of Christ, God-with-us. Amen.

Now go, little children, to tell of Christ's birth; how this baby Jesus from God came to earth. He brings us God's mercy, he brings us God's grace, he brings peace and love to the whole human race.

Special Music: O Holy Night (Paula Barton and the Sanctuary Choir)

Offertory Scripture: 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."

Offertory Prayer: Humble Lord, you surrendered the riches of heaven's palace for the 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

Ushers: If you are able to usher this evening, please come forward.

Offertory Music: O Little Town of Bethlehem, arranged by Jason Tonioli

Doxology:

No. 95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: The Birth of Jesus Luke 2: 1-20

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists.

² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria.

³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled.

⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea.

⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby.

⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night.

⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.

¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord.

¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us."

¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child.

¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully.

²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

This is the word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Special Music: In Remembrance Bob Botts

Service of Word and Table: No. 7-11
Communion Music: Away In A Manger with Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
arranged by James Michael Stevens
Communion Steward: Tim Robinson

Closing Hymn: Silent Night (candlelight vigil) No. 239

Silent Night

1st verse solo—Laura Gilley

ALL SING verses 2, 3 and 4:

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Al le lu ia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Song 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 they light;
with the angels let us sing, Al le lu ia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Benediction

May the Lord Watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another. Amen.

Postlude: Candlelight Carol by John Rutter, arranged by Justin K. Reeve



Merry Christmas
from your Trinity Family

METHODS OF GIVING

We have several ways for you to support the ongoing ministries and operating expenses of our church:

- bring an offering to the Sunday worship and put in the collection plate
- use the drop box at the back of the church
- mail a check to the church
- set up recurring payments with your bank
- online donation via website Subsplash—use the following address on your computer, tablet or phone:
<https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/FJ4VNG>
this secure website allows you to make a donation/offering in any amount, in any frequency (weekly, monthly, etc), and to select a specific purpose/fund for your donation. You can complete one of the cards located in the pews and put in offering plate to alert the office that you have made an online donation OR you can scan the QR Code below. With any of the electronic methods, you will need to establish an account prior to your first gift. Afterwards, you can simply sign in to your account.



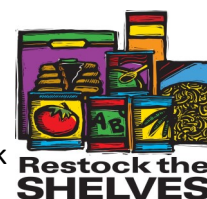
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT. (Online Giving Scan)



Wanna check out our Facebook page-scan here!

UPS BACKPACK PROGRAM

Don't forget that each month we are going to Restock the Shelves for the Union Primary School. The food item requested for December is juice boxes—apple or grape



DISASTER RELIEF ROOM: We have a designated room upstairs to house hygiene, home and some clothing for local disaster (fire, etc) victims. If you have any extra items to add to this room, please see Dennis or Cindy.

The Trinity Companion
December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve

Christ Candle



Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Candlelight Service begins at 6:00 pm

Pastor—Rev. Timothy Robinson

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