

Today's liturgical color is white 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: Joy to the World arranged by Michael Scott

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 worshiping community.

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship: It's Me, It's Me, O Lord No. 352

Welcome from Lay Leader Kim Parsons and welcome your neighbors

Announcements (*noted within the bulletin) - Amy Garcia

A Time for Prayer: Lay Leader Kim Parsons
The Lord's Prayer

**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 that 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.**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 148

Reader: Paula B

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from heaven! Praise God on the heights!

²Praise God, all of you who are his messengers! Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

³Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!

⁴You highest heaven, Praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

⁵Let all of these praise the Lord's name because God gave the command and they were created!

⁶God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken.

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all you ocean

depths!

⁸Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke, stormy wind that does what God says!

⁹Do the same, you mountains, every single hill, fruit trees, and every single cedar!

¹⁰Do the same, you animals – wild or tame – you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!

¹¹Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person, you princes and every single ruler on earth!

¹²Do the same, you young men – young women too! – you who are old together with you who are young!

¹³Let all of these praise the Lord's name because only God's name is high over all. Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴God raised the strength of his people, the praise of all his faithful ones – that's the Israelites, the people who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

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

Thanks be to God

Opening Hymn: Joy to the World No. 246

Children's Moment: led by Beth H.

The Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Ushers: (Paul C., John H., Steve P., Fred H.)

Offertory Prayer: Let us pray,
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. In Jesus name, Amen.

Offertory Music: In the Bleak Midwinter arranged by Greg Howlett

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: Luke 2:22-40

Reader: Kim Parsons

²²When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

(²³It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.")

²⁴They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, *A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*^[a]

²⁵A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

²⁶The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

²⁷Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law.

²⁸Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

²⁹"Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation.

³⁰You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.

³¹It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

³²His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him.

³³Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition

³⁴so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

³⁵There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years.

³⁶She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁷She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁸When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee.

³⁹The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

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

Thanks be to God

"Singing Service"

Congregation chooses selections to sing!

Apostle's Creed No. 881

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: You Crown the Year (Psalm 65:11) by Hillsong Worship

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 out the lighted candle lighter. This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS AND SUCH.....

Adult Sunday School is Sunday at 10am.

Choir Practice is **Wednesday at 7pm.**

Trinity Women—next meeting is Sunday, January 7 @ 5pm. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Methodist Men—next meeting is Monday, January 8 @ 6pm. The meeting will be held at **Country Kitchen**, meal cost is \$12. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Financial Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan 10, at 6 pm

The next **Pop’N for Jesus** is scheduled for **Wed, Jan 31st, 2024.** Interested in helping? **Meet at church or Hardees at 8:30 am!**

Worship service at Heritage Hall **every Wednesday at 1:30-3 pm**, all are welcome to attend. Pastor Tim is in high demand, they have requested two services each Wednesday in two separate areas of Heritage Hall! Heritage Hall services are cancelled for this week.

EVENTS AND CHURCH HAPPENINGS.....

Our Annual Epiphany Service will be held **January 14 @ 5pm**

A New Year is coming....wouldn’t you just love to volunteer on one of our many opportunities in 2024??! If you’d like to be included in any of the volunteer groups, please see the office, we’ll sign you up!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE Dec 24:

Sunday School: 6
In-Person Worship: 88
Facebook Live: 15
Visitors: 18
Candlelight Service: 80
Heritage Hall Dec 27: cancelled

*For the past 2 years, we have begun the New Year with prayer and fasting. This year we will be doing something a little different. I am asking all church attendees to read the easy-to-read, six chapter book “I am a Church Member,” by Thom Rainer. For many, this will be a refresher and for others it is our hope that you will learn something new about how to be a vital church member. Beginning Sunday, January 21, 2024, I will start a sermon series on this book. After the series is completed, you will be invited to attend a book discussion group. The book costs \$6 and if you’d like to purchase a copy, please contact the office by January 12th. Thanks, Pastor Tim

*Offering stewards for January

January 7: Cathy G., Susan H., Lana P., Cecilia R.
January 14: Gary H., John H., Chris S., Daniel W.
January 21: Joyce P., Amy G., Sandra R., Susie W.
January 28: Dennis A., Steve P., Spencer Q., Billy W.

*Children’s Moment for January

January 7: Diane B.
January 14: Patty R.
January 21: Kim P.
January 28: Mary Beth A.

*Greeters for January

Dec 31: Alberta M., Patty R.
January 7: Amy G., Donna M.
January 14: Joyce P., Patty R.
January 21: Alberta M., Angie T.
January 28: Amy G., Patty R.

*Lector Readers for January

January 7: Rob M-Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
January 14: Caitlyn S-Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
January 21: Alberta M-Psalm 62:5-12
January 28: Beth H-Psalm 111

Nursery Volunteers for January

Dec 31: Amy G., Katie Z.
January 7: Paula B., Donna M.
January 14: Amy G., Nicole R.
January 21: Judy H., Cathy G.
January 28: Amy G., Donna M.

*Communion Stewards for January 7:

Patty R., Amy G., Erin H., Beth H.



UPS Back Pack Program

Don’t forget that each month we are going to Restock the Shelves for the Union Primary School. The food item requested for January is cereal-small bulk bags.

ZIMBABWE BACKPACK ITEMS: Our goal is to fill 60 backpacks. The donation requested for January is blue or black pens—10-12 packs; there is a box in the fellowship hall to deposit supplies.

The Trinity Companion

December 31, 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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