

Trinity United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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December 10, 2023

10:45 AM

Angels Among Us¹

Nothing is Impossible: More Peace.

If you are a guest, thank you for worshipping with us today. We invite you and all present to sign the pew pads located at the end of each pew. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary or at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the sanctuary. Please note, all doors to the building will be open until 11:00 AM. After that time, please use the handicap door in the narthex.

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play, and you can still participate in the worship experience. Nursery care (infant through 2nd grade) is also provided, should you desire it. ***Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Music by Robert Lau

Lo He Comes

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Advent Candlelighting Family: Mary Ann & Michael Glazę & Dominic Kipe

ALL SING: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

MaryAnn, Michael & Dominic: We light the second Advent candle, the candle of peace, and ask that God would alight within us the flame of peace this day, granting us an openness to hearing the message of the angels, and courage to be messengers in the world, creating more peace in the midst of fear. And with the angel messengers above us, among us, and within us, we say:

ALL: Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of peace. We live far too much in fear. We have let fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from your light to the shadows of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us look at the ways that we have blocked your presence; ways that we have truly failed to be your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that your peace may become a reality in this world. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAISE RESPONSE² *Sing Out, All God's People (tune: O Come All Ye Faithful)*

**ALL SING: O Lord, we're reminded in this holy season:
Though we may struggle we are never alone.
Christ is our joy, our hope and peace unending:
In Christ, we know your presence; You heal us and restore us,
You give us joy and bless us, Bringing us home.**

***THE LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND PRAYER FOR PEACE
*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The Christ in me greets the Christ in you.

P: The Christ in me, greets in the Christ in you also.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26- 56

PARTICIPANTS: Mark Hollen (Narrator), Garrett Austin (Messenger),
Gillian Austin (Mary), Kristen Adams (Elizabeth)

One: God is still speaking!

All: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Nora Foust

ANTHEM

"Et In Terra Pax"

Incorporating Gloria
French Carol, 18thc
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Music by John Purifoy
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JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins/sin against)

All: Our Father, (Creator, Mother, Friend), 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

TIME OF GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Music by Mary Giffard
The Organist's Companion Vol.21, number 1
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OFFERTORY RESPONSE "*Angels From the Realms of Glory*"

NCH #126, vs. 1

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**ALL SING: Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
As you sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ALL: God of peace and possibility, we offer these gifts so that they may be transformed into your good news for the sake of the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UM #240

Public Domain

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Music by Mary McDonald

Cards A to Z

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References

¹ The worship service is based on the series “Angels Among Us”, with much of the liturgy in the service written by Marcia McFee.

² The words to the praise response were written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and set to the tune of *O Come All Ye Faithful* and posted at https://carolynshymns.com/sing_out_all_gods_people.html and accessed on November 27, 2023.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Danielle Neff, Pastor

Caleb Murray, Director of Faith Formation & Programming

Carol Ann Day, Organist

Gillian Austin, Director of Music

Kristen Adams, Communications Coordinator

John Mentzer, Custodian

Kim Lark, Secretary

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Media Team: Karen Adams, Hal Bitner, Mark Hollen,

Nick Mowen, Andrew Mowen, Joe Thompson

Usher Team: Sarie Dickey*, Jim Cooper, Teresa Needham,

Scott and Kathy Shaffer

Children’s Sermon: Caleb Murray

Acolyte: Leah Thompson

OUR MISSION

Because of our love of God, who first loved us, we empower disciples to let their lights shine through love of neighbor, love of children, and love of creation.

OUR VISION

As Jesus modeled first for us, we are working to create a just world where all are welcomed, all are loved, and all are included.

OUR PURPOSE

Celebrating the Christ in all of us by joyfully serving our community.

