

Trinity United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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December 31, 2023

10:45 AM

1st Sunday After Christmas

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping 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

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Setting by J. Wayne Kerr

3 Carols for Epiphany

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CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: How are we to live as God's beloved children?

P: We are to have attitudes and actions of compassion and justice.

L: How are we to live as neighbors with one another?

P: We are to put on the garments of love and peace.

L: God calls us to give as generously to others as God has given to us.

P: For there are angels among us.

L: Let us come before the Lord in gratitude for all we have been given.

P: Lord, thank you for all you continue to do in our lives. AMEN.

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

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: For the times we are afraid of the stranger or for the times we refuse the stranger, because we think our resources are just too meager-- Lord, forgive us. For the times we stereotype the stranger as enemy, as dangerous, as inferior somehow— Lord, forgive us. For the times we think we are being hospitable, but instead serve only our own needs—Lord, forgive us. For the times we miss the gift of the stranger, for the times we close our door in fear and for the times we miss your face in the other—Lord, have mercy. Forgive us. 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 *Hebrews 13: 1-2*

MESSAGE

One: God is still speaking!

All: *Thanks be to God.*

***HYMN**

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

NCH #165

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**Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.**

**Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus, but where is God's sacred sign?**

**Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.**

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 FOR GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"There's a Song in the Air"

Music by Robert J. Powell
Four Advent Pieces for Flute and Organ
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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

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Go Tell it On the Mountain”

NCH #154

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Go tell it on the mountain over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth

Go tell it on the mountain over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Music by Marianne Kim

The Heart and Soul of Christmas

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References

¹ The Call to Worship was written by Nancy C. Townley and published on the website <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3445/worship-connection-december-26-2021> and accessed on 12/18/23.

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://carolynhymns.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
January's Usher Team: Molly Adams*, Ben Adams, Charlie Clark,
Bill and Sharon Rinker
Children's Sermon: Caleb Murray
Lay Reader: Sarie Dickey
Acolyte: Ray Schlotterbeck

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.