

A night sky with a bright starburst and a silhouette of a person sitting on a chair. The starburst is the brightest point, with rays emanating from it. The sky is a deep blue with some lighter clouds. The silhouette of a person is sitting on a chair, looking up at the star.

PEACE

O N E A R T H

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024

1:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
213 North Pennsylvania Ave | Mason City, Iowa 50401 | 641-423-0536 |
www.trinity-mc.org

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

1:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.—Livestream Worship Service/KCMR 97.9

The true meaning of Christmas can be summed up by one simple phrase: God decided to be born. God could have stayed far away, tucked among the cosmos. But instead God was born in a place ripe with conflict and poverty to a teenage girl in a precarious situation. God decided to be born for us. And this God of love knows your name.

Welcome to Trinity this Christmas Eve! We are glad you are here and pray you experience God's hope and healing this day.

If you are new, please complete a white worship card located in the pews so we can follow-up with you.

We love having small children in worship! Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. A nursery is available, but won't be staffed. The nursery is located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (door under the stained glass window door).

Large print bulletins and listening devices are available from the ushers.

Seating for People with Limited Mobility is reserved in the pew located in front of the Technical booth.

Activity Bags are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.

The Bulletins are sponsored by:

Audrey Warner (1:30pm) - Given in honor and blessing of family and friends.

Harlan and Marge Baack (10:30pm) - Given in honor and blessing of family and friends.

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

10:00 p.m.

Britta and Nathan Elsbernd
Organ and Oboe Duet—“Two French Carols”



Kim Reisinger and Tracy Dedor
Molly Gerrietts, Accompanist
Bell Duet—“Still, Still, Still”



Brian and Emily Koob
Vocal Lullaby—“Christmas Medley”



Thomas Haas, Madeline Haas, Samantha Pang, Gavin Ryner
Vocal Quartet—“There is Faint Music”



Sophia Fitzgerald, Pat Guetzko, Dan Gerrietts, Melissa Shallberg
String Quartet—Special Music



Kylie Hansen
Molly Gerrietts, Accompanist
Vocal Solo—“What Child is This?”



Trinity Choir
Directed by Melissa Shallberg, Kim Reisinger, Accompanist
“Mary’s Lullaby”



Holiday Spice
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”



Trinity Ensemble
Directed by Nathan Elsbernd
“All Through the Night”

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of Advent Wreath

1:30pm. — John and Roz Barron

10:30pm — Tim and Carol Dettmer and Family

L In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

**C Let us begin with hope.
Let us begin with peace.
Let us begin with joy.
Let us begin with love.**

L Yes, let us begin with love, for
surely love knows your name.
Today, in addition to the candles of hope,
peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle.
For surely God is in this place.
Surely the Spirit is near.
Surely love knows our name.

**C May we rest in that good news.
Unto us a child is born.
Glory to God in the highest heaven!
Amen.**

All five candles are lit.

***Hymn**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

***Prayer of the Day**

P Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,
on this Holy Christmas Eve we ask that you would awaken something new in us.
Awaken in us a fire for your word.
Awaken in us proof of your nearness.
Awaken in us your love,
which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath.
We are listening.

C Amen.

Litany (*Inspired by Isaiah 9*)

L The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.

C We long for a light to guide us.

L You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy.

C We long for God's joy in our lives.

L For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

C We long to be relieved of all that we carry.

L For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C His name is Emmanuel: God with us.

L In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child,
we find our light, our joy, our comfort.

C Joy to the World! The Lord is come!

WORD

1 John 4:7-11

L ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another

L The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the

shepherds told them,¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon - Pastor Dan Gerrietts

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

*Prayers

P Gracious and Holy God, on this night we have heard how the world into which Jesus was born was ruled by governor, emperor, and king. Yet this story reveals that you, O God, are the only true Sovereign –Almighty and Everlasting. We thank you that justice and righteousness are in your hands. We praise you for the peace you have promised. Most especially, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, Immanuel, who lives among us each moment of our lives.

P We pray for public officials, rulers and leaders in our own time. Give them wisdom, the will to do what is right, and the courage to work for peace in our communities and among the nations. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for all who work and watch this night: for those in hospitals and positions of public service; for those serving our country here and around the globe; for those in airports, trains, and bus stations; for those who work in shelters, hotels, and other places of hospitality. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for all who suffer this night: those who are sick and those who are dying; those who are cold; those who are lonely or grieving; for people who are hungry and thirsty; and for all who struggle with addiction. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for families and friends: for those who are with us and those far away; for those who are traveling; for those who especially need your guidance this season; and for those in our memories who now dwell with you. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray, O God, that through Jesus Christ your glory will lighten every darkness. Fill our homes with your love as we gather together to glorify you with the giving of gifts and the sharing of stories and the eating of delicious meals. Bless all children. And use our gatherings to bring us all closer to you and to one another. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P These and all our unspoken prayers we lift up to you, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

MEAL

Offering

All designated Christmas offerings at Trinity this year will be shared evenly with Trinity Camp Scholarships, Trinity Welfare Fund and ELCA Disaster Response.

Designated offerings include those dollars that are received through member's Christmas offering envelope, the Christmas online giving tab, and any other gift marked "Christmas." Thank you for your generosity to these partner ministries!

Text to Give is available at Trinity!

Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.

Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



Lullaby

Melissa Shallberg

*Offertory

What Child Is This

What child is this, who laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthem sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angel sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

*Offering Prayer

P God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

C (tune: *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***Lord's Prayer**

C 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 and ever. Amen.

Communion Distribution

All who desire the presence and forgiveness of Christ that come in the sharing of this bread and wine are welcome to commune with us today.

You will receive a wafer and then proceed to dip the wafer into the wine. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available. Check with your server.

Ushers will direct you from the outside aisles to one of the stations in the front. You will return to your seat by the center aisle.

If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymns

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

*Prayer after Communion

P God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*Litany of Light

L The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
L Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
C **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
L For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
C **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

*Passing the Light 10:30 p.m.

The ushers will light the candle of those nearest to the center aisle. Please pass the light to those sitting in the outside sections. Please dip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor's to avoid dripping candle wax.

*Solo 10:30 p.m.

O Holy Night

Adam/Marsh

Allison Day, Molly Gerriets, Betsy Kirby, Liz Snell, Chereen Stroup

***Hymn**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

- 1 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,
- 2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly host sing alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.
- 3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son 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.

***Extinguishing Candles** 10:30 p.m.

- P You may now extinguish your candles.
But take the light of Christ out into the world.

SENDING

***Blessing**

- P God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.
- C Amen.

***Hymn**

Joy to the World

ELW 267

***Dismissal**

- P Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C **Thanks be to God**

Postlude 10:30 p.m.

From the Realms of Glory!
Trinity Ensemble

Serving in Worship

Pastor Pastor Dan Gerrietts
Pastor Daniel Hanson
Pastor Beverly Butler

Organist Nathan Elsbernd

Cantor
1:30 p.m. Melissa Shallberg
10:30 p.m. Kylie Hansen

Greeters
1:30 p.m. Harlan and Marge Baack
10:30 p.m.

Communion Servers
1:30 p.m. John and Roz Barron
10:30 p.m. Eric and Kristi Burt

Scripture Readers
1:30 p.m. Kathy Dobrzynski
10:30 p.m. Becky Elsbernd

Technical Support
1:30 p.m. Carter Rockwell
10:30 p.m. Randy Elsbernd, Maggie Gerrietts
Grace Koob

Ushers
1:30 p.m. Tracy Farland, Dean Graven
Stu Vold, Gary Wattnem
10:30 p.m. Liz Fitzgerald, Sophia Fitzgerald,
Bob Mason, Dave Stine



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