



THE MUSICAL PRELUDE: *Come, O Come Emmanuel; O Come, All Ye Faithful*
Sue (Beekman) Walker, French Horn and Matthew Walker, Trombone

PASTORAL WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful #283 verses 1, 2 & 3

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: [Refrain]

THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: In the stillness before the dawn, we witness a birth.

C: The humble birth opens our eyes to the wonder in the ordinary, the surprising presence of God in the common things of life.

P: And so we sing, light candles and rejoice together,

C: The gift of the holy child touches our hearts, the carols connect us to the ages, and the overwhelming love of God brings hope-filled tears to our eyes.

P: The promised Messiah is born!

C: A new Prince of Peace has come.

P: Rejoice for on this star-bright, holy night –

C: The angels still sing!

P: They bid us to seek the holy in the midst of the different and the ordinary.

C: They call us to look into the eyes of a child and see God.

ALL: They call us to trust God with what is begun, but not yet done.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER:

P: O loving God, you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and the Christ Child. May the words of Scripture remind us again that the old story is ever so new. May the carols reveal to us again the wonder and mystery of his birth. May the candles symbolize for us your Son as the Light of the world. May all who have known this mystery of that Light on earth come to the full understanding of its joys in heaven.

C: Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE IN WORD AND MUSIC:

***It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* #282 v. 1, 3 & 4**

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,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the 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;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

WHAT IS THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS?

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

***Hark The Herald Angels Sing* #270 v. 1 & 3**

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born king!”
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL:

Luke 2:1-7

¹In 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.

***Angels from the Realms of Glory* #275 v. 2, 3 & 4**

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star. [Refrain]

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]

Luke 2:8-20

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

SONG: *Breath of Heaven*, Darci Ketter, soloist

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION: Living Christmas “In-Between”
Pastor Cristy Schoob

SONG: *O Holy Night*, Lori Hassig, soloist

CHRISTMAS PRAYER:

P: Loving God, deep in the night, when all the world had locked the doors on love and closed the shutters on hope, you pierced the darkness with Light and a baby’s cry. Never again shall we be alone. No more shall we sit in fear. For Christ, the Light of the world and of our lives is born.

God of angels and babies, open us once again to this miracle, this wonder that you became one with us. Let the angels sing for us; let the star shine for us; let the child smile at us – here and now on this holy night.

C: Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Away in a Manger*, The Mauney Family

THE 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.

THE CEREMONY OF CANDLE LIGHTING

The central candle, a symbol of Christ, has been burning within the Advent wreath since sundown. All other candles in the sanctuary have been lighted from it.

As the ceremony begins, the pastors light their candles from the Christ Candle...as this happens there will be a time for you to light your candle at home. If you are worshipping with others, please pass that light from disciple to disciple, until all candles are lit.

***Each lighted candle is never tilted
but is always held upright when giving light to another.***

Holding the candle in one hand and this bulletin in the other, the following shall be spoken:

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT:

P: I am the Light of the World

C: Let your light shine before all people.

P: Glory to God in the highest heaven.

C: And peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you made this night shine with the beauty of the true light. Grant that on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us sing together:

Silent Night #281

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.

Silent night; holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at your birth.
Jesus, Lord at your birth.

THE BLESSING: *(All raise candles for the blessing.)*

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it is put on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.
In the same way, your light must shine before all people so that they will see the good, loving and compassionate things you do and praise your Father in Heaven

THE PRAYER: *(All lower candles for the prayer.)*

P: Strong and tender God, one candle can pierce the deepest darkness, one flickering light can kindle a new vision, one voice on fire can set our heart ablaze. Passionate and gentle God, you are the source of light, and we are your many candles, each uniquely burning for you. Touch us. Light us. Warm us. Purify us. May a flame rise in us and burn bright in us this holy and fiery night. Let it be. In the name of Jesus the newborn king.

C: Amen!

THE BENEDICTION:

P: We celebrate Jesus birth. Because of this birth all life is touched by Holy love. Let us go into the world cherishing the gift of God's love, made new with wonder in our hearts, with praise on our lips and with hope and joy in our souls.

C: Amen! Alleluia!

CANDLES EXTINGUISHED

THE CLOSING HYMN: *Joy to the World* #267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy; repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found,

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love and wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love.

THE POSTLUDE:

Joy to the World

Sue (Beekman) Walker, French Horn and Matthew Walker, Trombone

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OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attendee. Occasional attendee. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.**

COME *as you are.*

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017