



The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229
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December 2020



Pastor's Corner

*"People look east, and sing today, Love the Guest,
Rose,
Star,
Lord, is on the way.*

-People, Look East (Book of Hymns, #202)

As I hope you know by now, People Look East is our theme for Advent 2020. May I point out a few details about the above refrain? First of all, it all refers to Jesus. It is all about Jesus (not a bad description of Advent, perhaps I should just stop there). Nevertheless...

Christ is first referred to as Love. That's Love with a capital L, it is used as a proper name. That is telling us something very basic about the nature and the purpose of the Incarnation - God. Coming to us in human flesh.

Then in each verse Christ is described differently.

- Christ as *Guest* reminds us to sanctify and honor God in our homes. It further reminds us of the sacred duty of hospitality, sharing that love.
- Christ as *Rose* reminds us that God's glory is reflected in God's handiwork, creation. Though we celebrate Christmas in the cold darkness of winter, those signs are all around us. Let us use them.
- Christ as *Star* reminds us that "the heavens are telling the glory of God" Psalm 19:1 and that the light shines even in the darkest times.
- Christ as *Lord* brings it all together (especially for those of us who are not great with metaphors!)

Finally, it's important to complete the sentence, "Love...is on the way." This is the message of Advent. And my brothers and sisters it is a message of HOPE! I wish for you a holy Advent and a blessed celebration of the coming of the Lord.

Blessings,





Blue Christmas Service, A Service of Hope and Healing

We want to invite those of you who have struggled with the death of a loved one, faced life after divorce or separation, coped with the loss of a job, lived with cancer or some other disease, struggled with the COVID-19 that puts a question mark over the future, to join the Blue Christmas Service virtually on **December 15 at 7 PM.** (<https://www.trinityumc.net/watchlive/>)

This online service will be reflective, accepting where we are, and holding out healing and hope. We join together to acknowledge what we have lost and to remember Jesus' promise, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" in this time of challenges.



Come to This Year's Lessons and Carols!

Lessons & Carols

Virtually, of course. Lessons and Carols will "premiere" on **December 20 at 4 PM** and we are encouraging family and friends (keeping COVID guidelines in mind) to watch together. Instructions on how to watch will be on the web page, but I'm thinking it will be available on Vimeo and YouTube. We have two hymns and seven carols as well as the traditional readings. We've involved several Trinity members in creating slideshows during the carols, so both music and visual arts will be highlighted. The choir has been very busy, learning and recording the music, so please "come out" and support them in this very different approach to Advent.



Kids Christmas Pageant

Our Kid's Christmas Pageant is going to look different this year, but we are so excited to put it all together.

The Kid's Christmas Pageant will be released as one of our Christmas Eve services. Watch it together with others on **December 24 at 4:00 PM.** An hour after it airs it will then be available to watch at any time.

Christmas Eve Worship

Trinity will offer three opportunities for worship on Christmas Eve. Our family worship service will be online at 4:00 PM and will include the Kid's Christmas Pageant.

We plan to offer an outdoor in-person Christmas Eve experience at 6:00 PM. This will be a brief candlelight service and is subject to weather conditions and COVID regulations. Registration, health forms and masks will be required. Please bring your own candle.

Our online Christmas Eve worship service will be at 8:00 PM. It will contain carols, the Christmas story and will proclaim the Good News.

The 4:00 and 8:00 services will be available one hour after they air live on our Vimeo channel and on our Christmas page. We hope to worship together online at 4 & 8 PM, but understand that travel or other obligations may require you to worship online at an alternate time.

Find the Christmas Eve worship services at Trinityumc.net/watchlive or on our Vimeo and YouTube channels.



Advent Devotional

This year, in order to help you engage daily with Advent, we are sending our devotions to you via email or text message each day. You can expect the email to arrive sometime before 6 AM each day and your text link to arrive around 7 AM. We will also be posting via social media (Facebook and Instagram) around noon. Each of these posts will contain the same content, though they will each come through to your device a little bit differently.

We hope that this new thing helps you and your family dig a little deeper and experience a more holy Advent this year. Want to sign up? Go to <https://trinityumc.net/advent-devotional/> to sign up to do mobile or email. Each post will appear on that page after it goes live—a digital Advent Calendar for you!

This year we are adding a group element to our Advent Devotional. Each afternoon we will post a reflection question in our Experiencing Advent Together Facebook Group. This is an opportunity for you to reflect on your experience with the Advent Devotional with others. We encourage you to join that group if you are on Facebook. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TrinityAdvent/>)

Limited copies of the Advent Devotional will be available after Sunday, November 22. We thank our writers in working with us. We also appreciate Kim Tingler, Judy Oguich, Dianne Moore, Bill Pike and our editors Betsy Estes, Art Utley and Derek Taylor. Merry Christmas!

People look East!



McClure Bible Study Class

The McClure Bible Study class (each Sunday at 9:30 AM) will be studying the second book of Kings in January and February, 2021. Please contact Lou Cei (ceilb2@aol.com) for the link. What New Testament connections are found in this book of the Bible, recounting the downfall of the once powerful nation of Israel?



Contribute to Trinity's Christmas Eve Service

How would you like to be seen and (kind of) heard in this year's Christmas Eve service? Dr. Staples will be working on two virtual hymns this year: Joy to the World and O Come All Ye Faithful. We have a page on the Trinity Web which will explain what you need to do to contribute videos for this project. We will take these videos and combine them for a congregational version of a couple of verses of these two hymns. Don't worry if you're not a singer, you won't be heard individually. Your voice (es) will be combined with everyone else's and we invite individuals and families to join. You'll need two devices (a cellphone and computer, two cellphones, etc) and a willing spirit. Instructions will be on the web. It's not like really being together, but for now, it might just make us feel a little closer! We will need your video no later than **December 15**, but earlier would be better!



Trinity is on Amazon Smile!

Trinity is now on Amazon Smile! As you shop on Amazon during this holiday shopping season, we hope that you will consider using Amazon Smile and having a portion of your purchase go toward a charity or worthy cause.

There are tons of organizations from which to choose, and Trinity is now one of them.

You can use this link: https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=54-0683193&ref=smi_ext_ch_54-0683193_cl to select Trinity as your Amazon Smile non-profit of choice. Or, you can select another organization that is important to your heart.



Advent Offering

This year, our Advent offering will be given to United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). The staff at UMFS works with high-risk children and families across Virginia. Our financial support allows UMFS to make a difference in the lives of these children and their families. Prior to Christmas Eve, we will have an opportunity to learn how UMFS works to transform the lives of their clients. Plus, this year, the Trinity Foundation will match up to \$5,000 of your giving. Please prayerfully consider becoming an “unwavering champion,” donate to UMFS.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO TELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmastime is *full*. It's full of surprises, music, family, wrapping paper, shopping malls, and class parties.

But Christmastime is also full of *meaning*. It's full of wonder. It's full of hope. It's full of potential. Christmastime is so full, that when it comes to talking to our children about its true meaning, it can be difficult to know where to start, what to include, and how much our kids can really understand.

That's why we want to partner with you. We want to help you unpack the Christmas story in a way your entire family can understand and enjoy.

After dinner one evening, before bedtime, or over some Christmas cookies and milk, grab your Bible and gather your family. Using the script below as a guide, discuss the story of Jesus' birth together.

For younger kids . . . try paraphrasing the verses in your own words after reading them. Pause every couple of sentences and ask questions to reinforce their comprehension.

For older kids . . . encourage them to read all or parts of the Scripture aloud. Ask them to summarize the excerpts in their own words.

Open your Bible to Luke 2:4-7 and get started!



SAY:

Here's the *true* story of how Jesus was born. Anyone remember who God chose to be Jesus' father and mother on earth? Joseph and Mary. An angel had come to Mary to tell her she was going to have a baby—God's Son. Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. Together, they traveled to Joseph's hometown just as Jesus was due to be born.

Let's read what happened next.



READ:

So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. There was no room for them in the inn (NirV).



SAY:

Jesus had to be born in a barn because there wasn't room at a hospital or hotel. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about that? Do you think it matters that God's Son was born in a barn, surrounded by dirt, hay, and animals?

Let's keep reading.

**READ:**

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about" (Luke 2:8-15 NIV).

**SAY:**

Who did an angel of the Lord appear to? What were they doing? Why do you think the angels "terrified" the shepherds? Would you have reacted the same way? The angels told the shepherds they had "good news." What was that good news? What did the shepherds do when the angels went into heaven?

What do you think the shepherds found when they went to find Jesus? Let's see if you're right!

**READ:**

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told (Luke 2:16-20 NIV).

**SAY:**

What did the shepherds find when they went to look for Jesus? What did they do afterward? Why were they so excited? Would you be excited, too?

Jesus' birthday wasn't like anyone else's but Jesus' life wasn't like anyone else's. Jesus was born to give us hope. He was born to give us a chance to be in God's family forever. That's why Christmas is such a big deal. And just like the shepherds, we should thank God for giving us the greatest Christmas gift ever—His Son, Jesus!

(Note: This is an abbreviated version of the Christmas Story. For more details, read Matthew 1:18–2:23 and Luke 1–2:40.)

Heart Work for December

Every time we make a delivery to the food pantries at Sherbourne and Welborne, the staffs and volunteers always send their sincere thanks and appreciation to Trinity members for your support.

With December here, our support is needed more than ever.

Let's start with **Sherbourne**. Our deadline for getting items to their pantry is Monday, December 14. The food needs at Sherbourne will remain the same providing for a Christmas meal. Here are the requests:

Canned yams, corn, green beans, peas, instant mashed potatoes, canned cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, tea bags, coffee, sugar, flour.

Additionally, **Sherbourne** is collecting the following: coloring books, crayons, poppers, candy cane mice, and a gift for a child ages 0 to 12. We will collect these food and gift items for **Sherbourne** on Friday, December 4 and Friday, December 11 from 9-2 p.m. in Trinity Hall.

For **Welborne** our collection dates will be Friday, December 4, 11, and 18. The **Welborne** needs are as follows: cereals, soup, peanut butter and jelly, and if you can manage it \$10.00 gift cards from Walmart.

Thanks for all that you have done. We hope your hearts will be generous in continuing to make a difference in our community.

Any questions, please contact Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.



Central UMC Angel Tree Project



For the last several years, Trinity members have supported the children at Central UMC by providing Christmas gifts for them.

With COVID-19 creating some challenges for us, we have worked with the Central UMC staff to change the template this year. Instead of Trinity members going out and purchasing gifts this year, we are asking for a financial donation of \$50. In turn, this money will be distributed to Central UMC staff to order the gifts for the children in their church.

Checks or on-line donations can be sent to Trinity's Financial Secretary, Diane Ladd. Please note on your donation Angel Tree Central UMC. When giving online use "2020 Christmas Project" from the dropdown box. We need to have all donations by Friday, December 11. Any questions, contact Bill Pike bpike@trinityumc.net.

Scout News

Trinity member Tim Goodman has decided to step back from an active role with Scout Troop 799. There are no words that can adequately capture Tim's impact on multiple generations of Scouts. Tim has served in so many roles in furtherance of the Scout movement, but the most important role is that of mentor and friend to so many. Trinity UMC, Heart of Virginia Council, Cardinal District, past and present Scouts, parents and the leaders of Troop 799 are grateful for the four decades of service that Tim Goodman has given through his time and talents. Tim has truly left Troop 799 and the Scouting movement in a better place through his innumerable contributions and by honoring Scouting's goal of preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices today and over their lifetimes.



Thank You Joe!

A special thanks to Trinity member, Joe Andrews. From the late spring and into the early fall, Joe, has been working on getting our exterior stair and window well railings back in shape. This has been a tough project with hours of surface prepping before priming and painting could take place. Joe must have some Job in him as he has been patient and diligent in making these needed improvements. We appreciate Joe and his love for his church.



Calendar Year-end Contributions

IRS Code 10170A-1(b) states that only funds received by December 31, 2020 **or** postmarked by December 31, 2020 may be counted as 2020 contributions. The date of receipt or the postmark is the key to determining the year of receipt. Thus, if someone hand carries a check to the church on January 4, 2021 that is dated December 31, 2020 it is a **2021** gift according to IRS regulations. But, if a check arrives by mail at the church on January 4, 2021 and it is postmarked December 31, 2020 and the check is dated December 31, 2020 or before, it is a **2020** gift.

Please try to get your contributions for the calendar year into the church office by December 31, 2020. If you have any questions, call Diane Ladd at 288-6057 ext. 203.

Thank You Notes

Dear Friends,

Grace and Peace be with you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and from Pinnacle Living. Thank you for your commitment to the Samaritan Program. Your thoughtfulness and caring has touched the lives of the vulnerable, who have been blessed with longevity but have outlived their financial resources. Your kindness allows them to remain in their home enjoying the many friendships with fellow residents and team members. In response to your thoughtfulness I have been praying for your ministry and church family. May God continue to bless you as you bless so many others.

In Christ,

Charles Wickham, Director of Donor Dev.

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards and calls as our precious niece Toni graduated onto glory. Remember.....you are loved,

Bill & Jo Lewis

Dear Trinity,

Thank you so much for the emails, prayers and thoughts during Alex's surgery and recovery. It meant so much to us and it was very comforting. Trinity's family is very special to us. We appreciate the outreach and support the church has given us. Alex is recovering and doing very well. We are very grateful and blessed.

Thank you so much,

The Street family &

The Bitz family

Our family wanted to take a moment and sincerely thank each of you, our mom's Trinity family, for the love and compassion you showed us during her brief illness. We cannot thank you enough for all of the absolutely wonderful meals you provided every single night for over a month, as well as, your cards, emails, and texts. The meals were truly a blessing as all of this came on so suddenly, leaving us no time to plan or prepare. We will be forever grateful for your kindness and compassion at a time when we felt completely lost, unprepared and emotional.

We could tell by the cards we received following her death that you knew our mom well and cared for her as much as she cared for each of you, her church family. We look forward to the day we can celebrate her life with a memorial service, at her beloved church, and hopefully share a moment with all of you remembering Nancy and the memories we have of her.

With much love and thanks,

The Parrish and Kindervater families

Joys and Concerns

Birth

Ella Cabell Cecil born on October 6 to Andrew and Alicia Cecil.

Baptisms

Dex Keefe, Harris Noonkester

Our sympathies to...

Katie Swartz whose father Russell Hodges died November 19

The family of Kate James who died November 17

The family of Ray Shadwell, III who died November 13

The family of Nancy Kindervater who died November 10

Jo Lewis whose niece Toni Carpenter died November 6

The family of Dottie Vye who died October 26

Jeanne Mertens whose father William "Dick" Crews died October 20

Our Stewardship

"We will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness."

Our Presence:

Day	11/1	11/8	11/15	11/22
Worship Service	300	226	240	200
Sunday School				

Gifts as of October 31:

Projected income to date:	\$ 414,300
Actual income year to date:	<u>\$501,841</u>
Excess (-shortfall)	\$ 87,541

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, December 14 at 4 PM for events taking place in January.** Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing to Kim Tingler, ktingler@trinityumc.net.