Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 2024 11PM



810 Fairfax Street, Stephens City, Virginia 22655 www.trinitychurchvirginia.com **PRELUDE**ChristmasCarol DuetsHeather Butler, violin; Ricky Gearhart, OrganAway in a Mangerarr. Douglas WagnerTrinity Chime ChoirO, Holy NightAdolphe AdamPastor JMe Lowden, alto

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** 

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### GATHERING SONG O Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, by your greatness you became small, by your power you became powerless, by your limitlessness you became limited. Through the birth of your son, we can live in your light that shines on a world transformed by the limitless power of your love. **Amen** 

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

Marcie Stern

A reading from Isaiah. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darknesson them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>His 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. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM: Psalm 96**

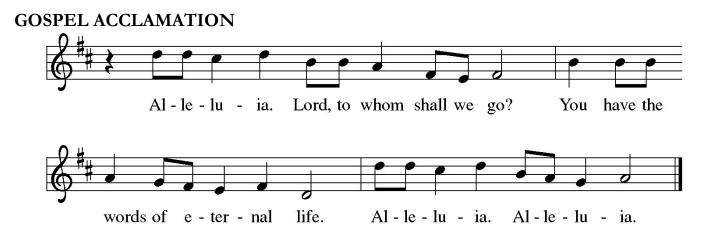


## SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



#### GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

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

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

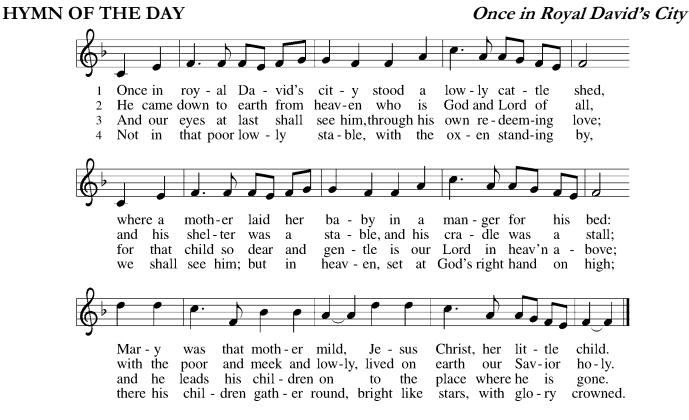
<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

#### CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
  We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Dan, Michael, Monica, Barbara and those we name now (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Other petitions may be offered now.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

# PEACE

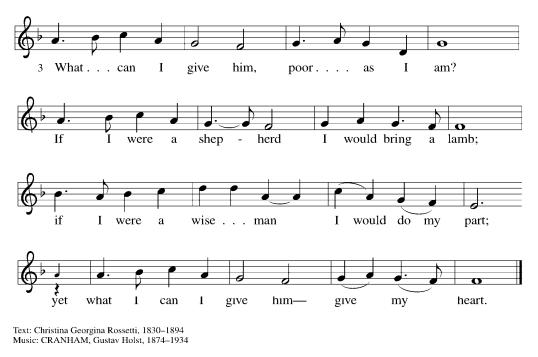
The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

# **OFFERTORY ANTHEM** The Friendly Beasts arr. K. Lee Scott



Trinity Choir Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

In the Bleak Midwinter

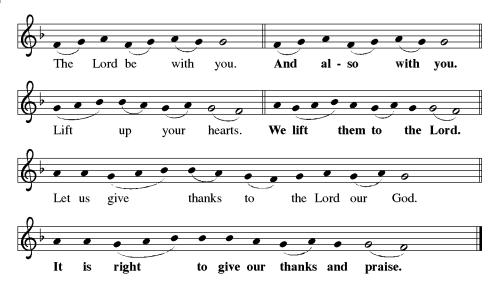


### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

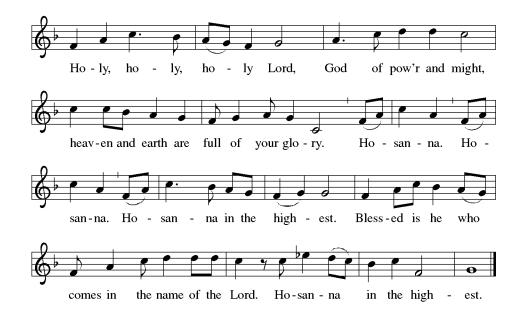
Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### DIALOGUE



#### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, .....with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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. With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. All praise and glory are yours, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most-High, now and forever. Amen.



#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

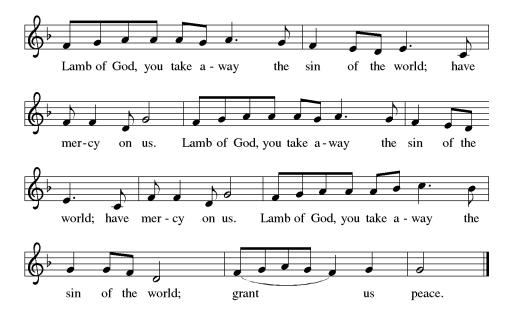
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

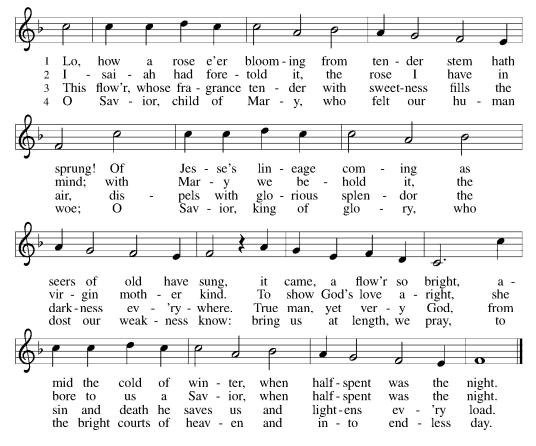
Taste and see that the Lord is good. those at home may take their elements at this time.

Communion distribution directions: Communion will be served in continuous fashion with the choir and musicians going first, followed by the congregation. Starting with the front row of the right side, please come forward down the center aisle to receive the wafer from the pastor. Take an empty glass from the tray and proceed to the communion assistant on the side you were seated to receive the wine from a pouring chalice. Return to your pews via the side aisles. Worshippers seated in the side chapel/ cove will follow those seated on the left side of the nave. If there are worshippers seated in the parish hall, the pastor and a communion assistant will bring the elements to you from the nave.

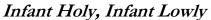
#### **COMMUNION SONG**

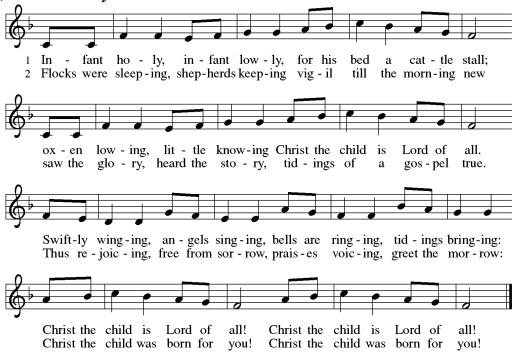


#### SONGS DURING COMMUNION



Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599





Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: WŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol



#### O Little Town of Bethlehem



### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

### CANDLELIGHTING

Individual candles will be lighted from the center aisle. The lighted candle is always held upright. The unlighted candle is tipped to receive the light. When all candles are lit, the congregation sings Silent Night.

Silent Night, Holy Night!: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

#### BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. Amen.

### SENDING SONG

Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

Postlude to The Birth of Christ

Heinrich Von Herzogenberg (1843-1900)

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A Service of Lessons and Carols will be at 9:30AM Sunday, December 29th.

Members and friends are encouraged to worship at Trinity on Sunday, January 5 as we celebrate Pastor JMe's ministry on her last Sunday with the congregation. Following the service there will be a special luncheon and everyone is asked to bring a side dish and/or a dessert as well as your best wishes for Pastor.

# **POINSETTIAS**

Donor

In Memory of



Pastor JMe and Bob Lowden	our parents & grandparents
Michael & Monica Lambert	Herbert Michael & Eddie Lambert Calvin & Virginia Rogers, Opal Long, Carroll Long
	Anderson King
Susan Scheulen	Barbara Greene, Dennie Richard, Leonard & Annabelle Richard, Harry & Bertha Scheulen
Bernetta Jenkins	J. Warden Jenkins
Tom & Nan Righter	Richard & Helen Righter and John & Paula Davis
David & Pam Reichert	their mothers
<u>Donor</u> Joe and Vickie Hollis and Betty Wymer	In Honor of Kim Begnaud-Hampton and Brandon Hampton for their selfless and constant efforts for the poor and needy in our community on behalf of Trinity.
Pastor JMe Lowden	with thanksgiving for the people and staff of Trinity
Brenda Boldin	Pastor JMe for her dedicated service to God and the congregation of Trinity and Bob Lowden for his support of his wife, the church and community
Brenda Boldin	Ricky Gearhart for his dedicated service to God and Trinity and as a wonderful colleague, and to all my many helpers throughout the year
The glory of God	Robert and Christine Cornwell
Jerry & Maxine Rogers	Their grandchildren & great grandchildren Greg & Tammy Rogers, Michael & Monica Lambert
Bernetta Jenkins	Debbie & David Garber, Diann & Ron Dailey
William & Darla Wolf	their children, Cody & Will Wolf
Mike & Helen Pyne	Grayson and Owen