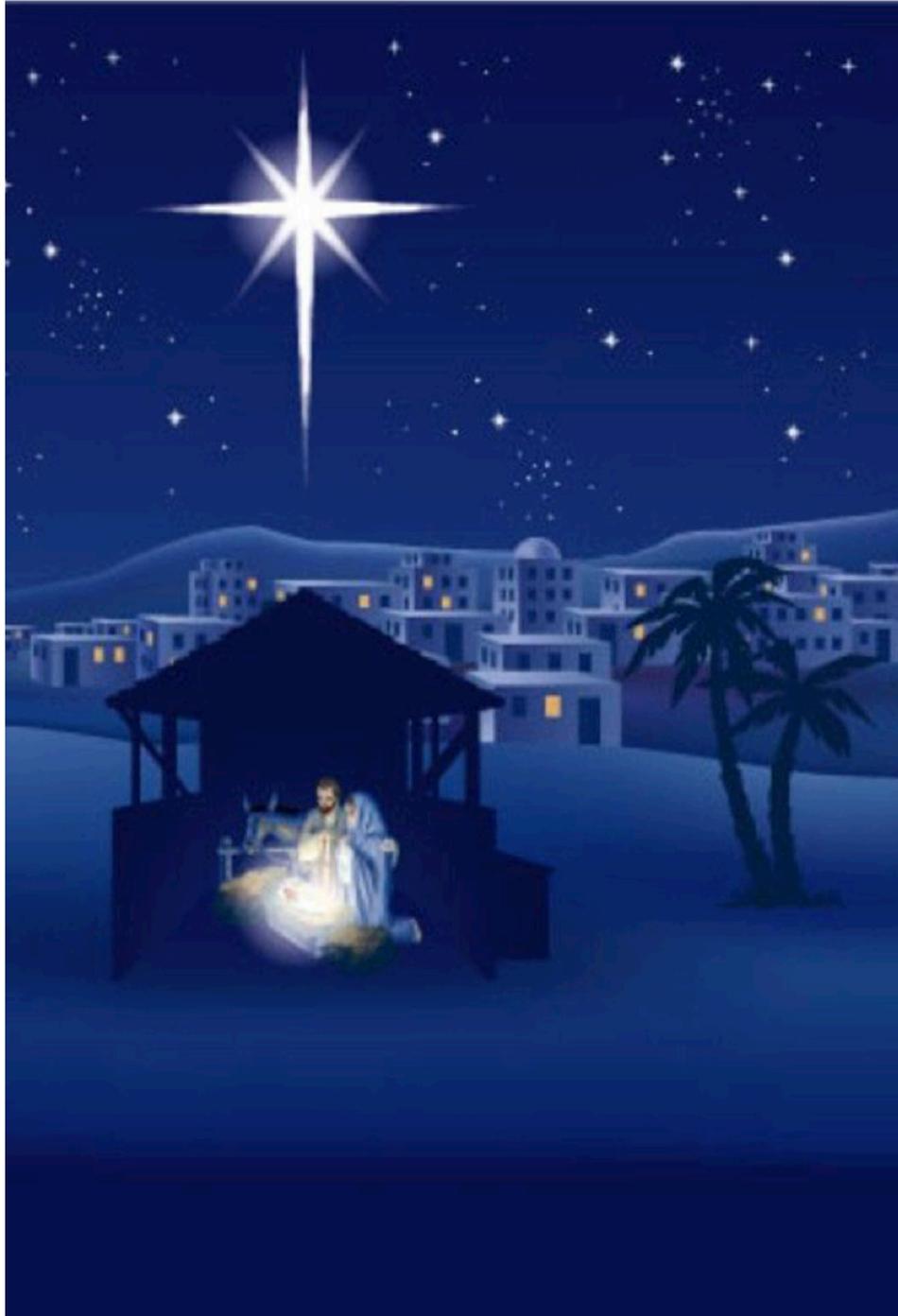


Christmas Eve



Trinity United Methodist Church

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**Christmas Eve
Lessons, Carols and Candles
December 24, 2017
9:00pm**

❖ *Please stand, as you are able*

Prelude: "International Carol Preludes"
by various arrangers

❖ **Call to Worship**

To us a child is born

To us a son is given.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,

For we have known Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Christ Candle

L: Advent is over and the dawn of new life is breaking.

P: We began our Advent journey in darkness but now rejoice in the light.

L: For the past four Sundays we have lit candles to remind us that Jesus is our HOPE, the author of LOVE, the source of our JOY and the Prince of PEACE.

P: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:1-5

L: Tonight we light the Christ candle to proclaim that Jesus, the light of the world, has come to us.

L: These lights shine bravely into the shadows banishing the present darkness.

P: Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us. His light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

L: God commands us to let our light shine.

P: "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." We will live our lives full of Light so that everyone can see and share in the light of Jesus.

❖ **Song** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #211, v.2

Lessons and Carols

Lesson One

Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet announces the birth of a king "to a people sitting in darkness."

❖ **Carol**

"What Child Is This"

#219

Lesson Two

Micah 5:2-5a

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor, and peace for all of God's creation.

❖ **Carol**

"Joy to the World"

#246

Lesson Three

Luke 1:26-38

Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

❖ Carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" #238

Lesson Four Luke 2:1-7
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

❖ Carol "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #229

Lesson Five Luke 2:8-20
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

Anthem: "A Christmas Noel"
French Carol, arr. Anna Laura Page
Chancel Choir and Trinity Ringers

Lesson Six Matthew 2:1-11
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

❖ Carol "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" #244

Lesson Seven John 1:1-14
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

❖ Carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #240

Meditation "Which Jesus?" **Pastor Gilbert Stones**

❖ Carol "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful" #234

Prayer **Mike Eggleston**

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head"
Appalachian Carol, arr. John Jacob Niles

❖ **Response** (verse 4 of "In the Bleak Midwinter" #221)
What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer

Receiving the Bread and Cup

