

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on Adeste Fideles”

Setting by
Herbert Sumsion

If you ordered poinsettias for the altar, you are welcome to remove them after Christmas Day.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor: Rick Reiten

Education & Family/Assisting Minister: Katie Kline

Organist: Alice Crawford

Director of Choirs: Paul Falk

AV Technician: Joshua Moore

Hospitality Team Members:

2:30 pm: Dave Karst, Dave & Jean Ferrin, Tim Anderson & Steph & Macee Dugger

4:30 pm: Cheryl Smith, Tim Anderson, Nancy Harrison, Jon & Brenda Fosse,
Nathan Fosse & Ron & Bonnie Bend

Parking Lot Attendants:

2:30 pm: Art Klinzmann & Bob Fairbairn

4:30 pm: Clint Borkowski & Richard Morton

Greeter at Door:

4:30 pm: Cayden Hopkins

A special thank you to our guest musicians today:

Gay Slade-piano, **Anne Schmidt**-viola, **Jenny Crum**-Cello,
Paul Johnson-trumpet, **Rich Fennig**-trumpet, **Blaine Lemanski**-trombone
Sarah Foss-percussion, & **Tim Sanchez**-percussion

Merry Christmas!



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*Trinity Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019*



Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity is a welcoming faith community living together in God's love to share the joy of Jesus Christ.

301 E. Stuart St., Fort Collins, CO 80525 - (970) 482-1226

www.trinitylutheranfc.org

email: office@trinitylutheranfc.org



WELCOMING THE SAVIOR

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24, 2019 - 2:30 & 4:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

301 East Stuart, Fort Collins, Colorado 970-482-1226

Welcome to worship this Christmas Eve at Trinity! On this night, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we are so glad you have joined us.

Guests and Visitors: A special **welcome** to you from Trinity's pastor and congregation members. We pray that this worship will bring you comfort, joy, and renewal. All are invited to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. If you have any questions about the worship service or about Trinity, our Hospitality Team members (at the Welcome Desk or identified by name tag) are happy to help.

Your offering is your presence with us in community. We encourage you to fill out a welcome card and place it in the offering plate. Please join us again!

Parents and Caregivers: Please know that God's children of all ages are welcome in worship. Younger kids are invited to bring one of our specially-prepared "busy bags" into the worship service along with crayons. Both are available in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. If you wish to step out with your child at any time, there is a special room just outside the worship space where you will be able to view and hear the service. If you prefer, we also offer a staffed Nursery. Children cared for in the Nursery are brought into worship for the Children's Message.

Special needs: Hearing-assistance devices, as well as gluten-free wafers and grape juice for Communion, are available during our services. Holy Communion can also be brought to the seats of those with mobility trouble. Our Hospitality Team members can help with any of these special needs.

Restrooms are located on the east (men's)& (family/gender inclusive) and west (women's) sides of our Fellowship Hall, through the double doors.

O come, let us adore him: Christ the Lord!

Please stand as you are able

3. 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.

Candles may be extinguished

BLESSING

P: Depart in peace, and take with you the promise that God is always coming into the world.

C: **We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and in the depths of our own hearts.**

P: May the gift of Christmas be shaped among family, friends, neighbors and strangers.

C: **We welcome the challenge of seeing God in all people. We go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

ELW #267

with guest musicians

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

SENDING

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go into this silent night singing the joy of the world.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain.**

4. This star drew near to the northwest
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain.**

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

For the lighting of our Christmas candles: please tip the unlit candle toward the lit candle before offering your light to your neighbor. Adults, please help children with their candles and make sure all candles are held upright.

John 1:1-5 ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

ELW #281

Accompanied by Members of Bells of Trinity

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, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

PRESERVICE MUSIC

"Carols from the Hammered Dulcimer"
Alice Crawford, Hammered Dulcimer

"Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"
Gay Slade & Alice Crawford-Four Hands at the Piano

Setting by
Matt Riley

"Carol Rhapsody"

Setting by
Rick Seaton

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"
Bells of Trinity

Setting by
Kevin McChesney

GATHERING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
with guest musicians

ELW #283

1. 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.**

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: **Refrain**

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **Refrain**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High,
† one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C: **Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness.
We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so
that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the
Lord. Amen.**

P: We bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ
the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

P: We light the Christmas candle to proclaim that, out of love for the world, God dispelled darkness forever through the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

C: **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for the Christmas Story

"Away in a Manger"
Verses 1 & 3

ELW #277

Before Message, as children walk forward

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

After Message, as children walk back to pews

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"
Trinity Chancel Choir

Setting by
Molly Ijames

READING

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

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| <p>3. 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!</p> | <p>4. 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.</p> |
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"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ELW #279

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| <p>1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.</p> | <p>2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!</p> |
| <p>3. How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.</p> | <p>4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!</p> |

"The First Noel"

ELW #300

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*All are invited to share in these sacred words of promise,
as Jesus gives this gift to the people.*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying...

C: **Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in Remembrance of me.**

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying...

C: **This cup is the new promise in my blood, shed for you, and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in Remembrance of me.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

C: **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord’s Supper at Trinity Lutheran is open to all who wish to follow Jesus. If you are not yet ready to receive communion, but would like a blessing, please come forward with folded hands. Children are welcome to commune at the discretion of their parents, or to receive a blessing. Receive the wine or grape juice by intinction (dipping the wafer into the chalice). Gluten-free wafers are available for those who have the need. Simply ask the minister during communion.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

ELW #282

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| <p>1. 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 heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.</p> | <p>2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.</p> |
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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.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

ELW #289

- Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY

Pastor Rick Reiten

HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
with guest musicians

ELW #270

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn 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 newborn king!”

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

3. 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 man no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING

“Ding, Dong! Merrily on High”
Trinity Chancel Choir

Setting by
Ryan Murphy

*The offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.
All gifts are tax-deductible. (<http://www.trinitylutheranfc.org/give.html>)*

OFFERING HYMN

“What Child is This”
Verses 1 & 3

ELW #296

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

3. 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

C: **God with us: you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and
greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how
good you are at blessing ordinary things, and then, through these gifts,
help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.
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 our thanks and praise.**