



Trinity United Church of Christ

"Embracing & Celebrating God's Love"

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24th, 2025 - 5:00pm

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship today. The * indicates that those who are able may stand. Words in **bold type** are your part!

PRELUDE

WELCOME (Please sign the attendance pads in each pew)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLES

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope. **Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.** Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace. **Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.** Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy. **Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.** Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love. **Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

Tonight, we light all five candles- the candles of hope, peace, joy, love and finally, the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. The candle of hope reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. The candle of peace reminds us that peace will one day reign. The candle of joy is a reminder that we have been given eternal life and have no reason to be fearful. And the candle of love represents God's redeeming love for us, brought to earth in the form of a tiny child.



Light of Light Congregational Part

JOEL RANEY



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Candle Lighting Prayer

Closing prayer: God of light, tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank you for this, the most precious of Christmas gifts, and we ask that you keep the hope, peace, joy and love of this season in our hearts, now and throughout the coming year. Emmanuel-God is with us, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

* Choir “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

* LITANY - “ON THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS”

On the Eve of Christmas; **Hatred will vanish**

On the Eve of Christmas; **The earth will flourish**

On the Eve of Christmas; **War will be gone**

On the Eve of Christmas; **Love will be born**

On the Eve of Christmas; **Poverty, Racism and War will end**

When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

it is Christmas

When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes

it is Christmas

When the spirit of revenge dies in me

it is Christmas

When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart

it is Christmas

When I rest in God's peace

it is Christmas

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Larry Baker

MEDITATION

“What Child is This?”

Bell Choir

ISAIAH 9:6-7

CAROL

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

#16 CHRISTMAS SONGBOOK

LUKE 1:26-38

CAROL

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

#21 VERSES 1 AND 4

LUKE 2:1-7

CAROL "AWAY IN A MANGER"

#5 CHRISTMAS SONGBOOK

LUKE 2:8-14

ANTHEM "IN THE BLACK MIDWINTER"

LUKE 2:15-16

CAROL "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

#3 VERSES 1 AND 4

TIME OF PRAYER

SILENT, PASTORAL AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Response - Angels From the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of Glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and Worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

Offering:

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, you have given us the priceless gifts of peace, love, joy and hope in the child of Mary. Receive these offerings, as we offer our hearts in pursuit of Your Will for the world. In the name of the living Christ we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "O HOLY NIGHT"

LYNDA VARNO, SOLOIST

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

(The lights will be dimmed, the Pastor will light the ushers candles. Ushers will light the candle of the first worshipper in each pew and the light will be passed on person to person. For safety, a lighted candle must always remain upright. Tip the unlit candle to the flame. Please extinguish candles before leaving the pew and return them to the baskets outside the Sanctuary.) Special Music during the lighting of the candles

* Closing Responsive Litany Of the Light

Rejoice in the peace that comes from knowing Christ, the Light of the World.

Jesus is the Light of the World!

As we near the birth of Christ, we are reminded to shine as lights in a dark world.

Jesus is the Light of the World!

The light of the Christ candle has spread to each of your lights. Feel the peace of God.

Jesus is the Light of the World!

Be still and meditate on God's love.

Jesus is the Light of the World!

As you hold your Light, let it remind you of the presence of God in you and around you.

Be true to the Light. Shine Your light into a dark world at all times and in all places.

* CAROL
#25

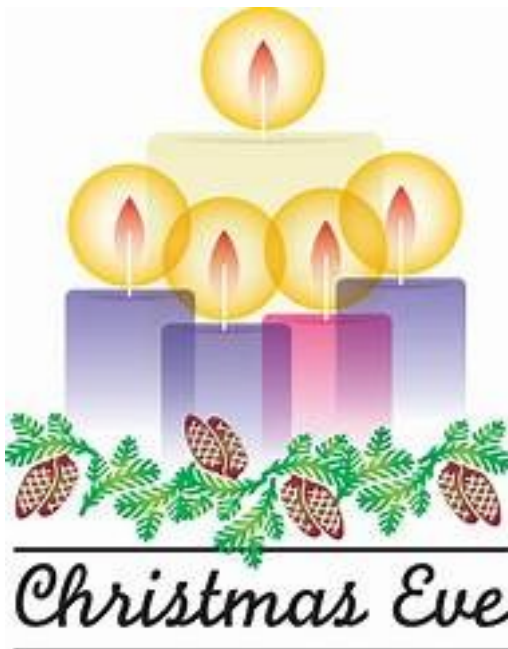
"Silent Night"
In German- Lynda Varno

Doug Anderson Guitarist

*Benediction

May you be filled with Mary's wonder and joy, Joseph's loyalty and peace, the shepherd's curiosity and hope, and most of all, the Christ-Child's light and love that shines into the darkness leading us to new life. Go in peace, and spread the light of the world. May Christ be born in us today. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE



Please extinguish your candles and place them in the baskets outside the Sanctuary. Please keep the Songbooks in the Pews as we will be using these for the rest of the Christmas Season. Thank you!