



# Blue Christmas

**A Service of Remembrance  
December 17, 2025  
7:00 PM**

**Trinity Lutheran Church  
1190 Valley Forge Rd PO Box 340 Fairview Village, PA 19409  
610-584-8411 [www.trinityfairview.com](http://www.trinityfairview.com)**

# PRELUDE

P Please rise.

## THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P First, we light a candle to remember the people we have loved and lost. We name them before you as we remember them: the joys and sorrows we shared, the memories we hold most dear. We hold them before you, Emmanuel, God with us, giving thanks for their lives.

C **Amen.**

P The second candle we light for when we lose direction in our lives. We want so much to know where we are and where we ought to be headed. O Emmanuel, you ask us to be full of faith, to believe deep within that you are our signpost and our guide, and to trust in your presence. Your words to us are clear: “Do not fear, I go before you.” Take our lives and use them according to your will. Take all that is lost in us and bring it home with you.

C **Amen.**

**P** The third candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs with the security they bring, the loss of health in ourselves or in family members, the loss of joy and peace in our lives from the stresses which surround us, the loss and loneliness we experience when our loved ones do not share our faith, the difficult-to-name losses when a hoped-for future will never be. As we gather up the pain of the past we offer it to you, O Emmanuel, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The fourth candle we light as a sign of hope, the hope that the Christmas story offers to us. We remember, O Emmanuel, that you share our lives and promise us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

**C** **Amen.**

# OPENING HYMN

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

### Verses 1 & 3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

P Today and all days embrace us in a love that knows no end.  
Today and all days fill us with a power that overcomes. Today  
and all days encourage us with a word that nourishes.  
Today and all days inspire us with a hope that sustains.  
Today and all days comfort us with a peace that endures.  
Today and all days bring wholeness of body, mind and spirit.  
Today, and all days, in Christ's name we pray.

C **Amen.**

P Please be seated.

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

# RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

- L Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
- C You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth**  
L before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
- C Stir up your might, and come to save us!**  
L Restore us, O God;
- C let your face shine, that we may be saved.**  
L O Lord GOD of hosts,
- C how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**  
L You have fed them with the bread of tears,
- C and given them tears to drink in full measure.**  
L You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
- C our enemies laugh among themselves.**  
L Restore us, O God of hosts;
- C let your face shine, that we may be saved.**  
L But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
- C the one whom you made strong for yourself.**  
L Then we will never turn back from you;
- C give us life, and we will call on your name.**  
L Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
- C let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **THIRD READING: Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **REFLECTION**

*The Rev. Mary Konopka, Guest Pastor*



# RITE OF REMEMBRANCE

P The Bible declares that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Tonight, we light candles as an action to speak what a million words cannot name. We light candles as an act of prayer or service or faithfulness for those we wish to remember, for our families, for what we have lost, for healing, for ourselves, for the gifts of faith and hope.

*During the singing of the hymns, members of the assembly may come forward and prayerfully light candles.*



# HYMNS

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

### 1ST AND LAST VERSE



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

# WHAT CHILD IS THIS

## 1ST AND LAST VERSE



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

# O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER

## *THE LORD IS MY SONG*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*



Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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P Please sit or kneel.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the  
church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship  
and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all  
may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;  
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and  
protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence is kept.*

L Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

**C To You, O Lord.**

Prayer in unison...

**C    My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C    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**

P Please Rise.

## THE BLESSING

P God be in you... always  
God be in your resting  
God be in your waking  
God be in your speaking  
God be in your listening  
God be in your fullness  
God be in your emptiness  
God be in your laughing  
God be in your weeping  
God be in your busyness  
God be in your quietness

In the name of the father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**



# CLOSING HYMN

## IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

### 1ST AND LAST VERSE



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876  
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

TRINITY  
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<i>Serving Today</i>	
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Anne Meibohm</i>
<i>Usher/Advent Candle</i>	<i>Leslie Askonas</i>
<i>Lectors</i>	<i>Craig Moyer &amp; Ann Dungan</i>
<i>Building Opener/Closer</i>	<i>Ann Dungan</i>



# Christmas Season at Trinity

*All Services are In Person & Livestreamed*



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

3:00 PM

6:30 PM Prelude Concert

7:00 PM



## LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM

