

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A family where Christ is Head and the entire congregation are ministers."



Rejoice

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

6001 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23505

757-489-2551

Rev. Timothy Utton ~ *Vacancy Pastor*

Carroll Smith ~ *Director of Music*

**Good Morning! We welcome you today as a part of God's family here at Trinity!
We hope that your experience here is meaningful and will be lasting.**

Trinity is a liturgical Lutheran church using the Divine Service as written in the Lutheran Service Book. Today's Divine Service is printed for you in this bulletin. Today's service is being live streamed to YouTube and will be available later in the day on Trinity's Facebook page and Website. The receiving of communion will not be recorded to preserve the sanctity of the sacrament. During this time, the recording will be directed to the stained-glass window above the altar so communion hymns can still be shared. By entering the service, you consent to the video recording to be used for live streaming, inclusion on our web site and Facebook, and/or any other purpose by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Visitors – We are so happy you are joining us for Worship today. If this is your first visit at Trinity, please take a moment to complete the Visitor Card found in front of you in the pew. Then place the card in the Offering Plate as it is passed during the service.

PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR – Flo and Richard Ball, Janet Eddy, Chuck Edsall, Pastor Charles Froehlich, Pat Gregory, Terry Ingmire, Jan Knickelbein, Julie and Sam Locklear, Mary Ann Medlin, Brenda Pendry, Bob and Carol Petrie, Sherrie Schirmer, Boyd Sylvester, and Linda Vernick.

Today's Worship Participants

Vacancy Pastor
Director of Music and Organist
Lector
Saxophone
Soprano Soloist
Tenor Soloist
Harmonica

Rev. Timothy Utton
Carroll Smith
Cathy George
David Chadwick
Lynn Hubert
Zach Kuenzli
Bud Hubert



If you have a smart phone or tablet computer
you can scan this code and the complete
Order of Worship will appear on your screen.

WiFi Password – HelloFriend

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2023

A Service of Readings and Carols

*The congregation sits quietly. Please be aware that some people use the time prior to the service for reflection and meditation in the sanctuary. You are encouraged to talk to God before the Service, let God talk to you in the Service, then talk to one another **after** the Service.*

Piano Prelude

Still, Still, Still

Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *Stand and face the Processional Cross* (rear of the Church)

Processional Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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Call to Worship

- P** Dear friends in Christ: At this Christmas time once again we delight to hear the message of the angels and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem to see this thing which is come to pass, the Babe lying in the manger. But before we approach our Lord, let us seek his forgiveness.

Confession and Absolution

- P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.)

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- C** Amen.

With hearts full of worship and praise let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our turning away from God to the glorious Redemption brought to us by this Holy Child.

Sit

First Lesson

Genesis 2:4-9

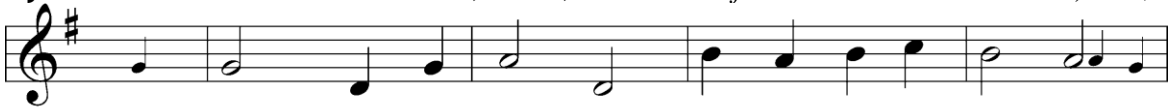
Choice immediately enters the picture. Both the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil are placed in the center of the garden.

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. ⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Hymn

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379, sts. 1, 3–4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Hymn

See amid the Winter's Snow

LSB 373, sts. 1-3



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
 2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
 3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
 He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
 Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!

Refrain

Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

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Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366, sts. 1–2, 4



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,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass 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.
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was 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,
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an - cient prom - ise bring,



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.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

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Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.



Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361, sts. 1–3



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!



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.



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,



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.

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Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Hymn

Away in a Manger

LSB 364

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Saxophone Solo

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. by Brenda Portman

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Hymn

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Hymn*As With Gladness Men of Old*

LSB 397, sts. 1-3



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.



Stand (as you are able)

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In 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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

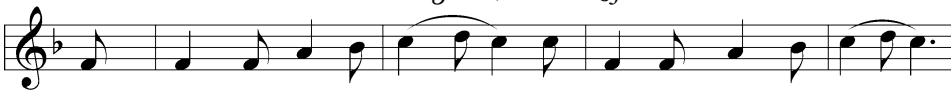
⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Sit

Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

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Offering

Anthem

Child of Light

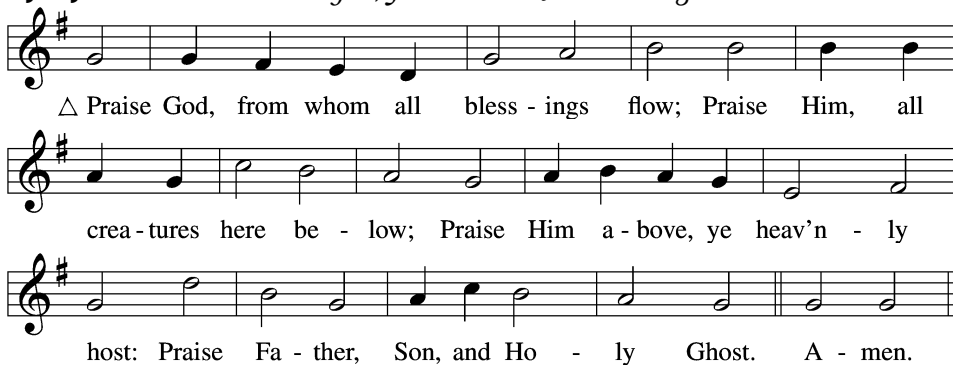
David Kantor

Stand (as you are able)

Offertory Hymn

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LSB 805



△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy...

C ...hear our prayer.

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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Sharing the Peace of Christ

Following the service, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Harmonica Postlude

Joy to the World

Handel

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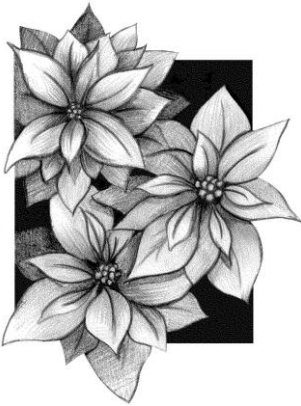
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The poinsettias gracing our church today are given ~

In Loving Memory of

Lennie and Shirley Whitson
Nattie, Rudolph and Harry Broegler
Our Parents
My husband, John and mother, Margaret
My husband, Bill
June Knickelbein
My brother, Jim
My sister, Joy
Daughter, Brothers, Sisters, Parents
Thelma Scroxton
My Parents
Mom, Esther Sontag
Marc Vernick
Rev. Roger Vernick
Parents, Al and Kay Sulak
Courtney Pendry

by the Brooks, Sawyer and Mathews Families
by Carole Brooks
by Craig and Mary Lou Scott
by Jean Boyette
by Charlotte Gunther
by John and Jan Knickelbein
by David and JoNell Chadwick
by David and JoNell Chadwick
by Errol Jennings
by Anne Starke
by Diane Shaver
by All her Children
by Ted and Elizabeth Baroody
by Ted and Elizabeth Baroody
by Doug Sulak
by Doug Sulak



In Memory of Loved Ones

by Peggy Bashara
by Jacque Czypinski
by Emily Hauser
by Richard and Flo Ball

To the Glory of God

by Ken and Sharyn Leiding

In Honor of

Our Lord and Savior
by Ralph and Cathy George
Our Savior's birth
by Janice Gwin
Our Military
by Anne Starke
The Baroody and Vernick Families
by Ted and Elizabeth Baroody
Our Trinity Family
by Bud and Lynn Hubert

Please feel free to take your poinsettia home after the service this morning.

TRINITY'S MINISTRY TEAM prays that the peace and joy of Christ will be yours always.
Have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

- *Pastor Prince, Pastor Utton, Carroll Smith, Anne Combes, Lynn Hubert and Bill Sontag*



God is with us. Jesus came at Christmas to save you. But not just at Christmas. He comes to save you now.

Believers in Jesus gather together at church every week, and there Jesus meets them. He speaks to them through His Word in the Bible. He brings the forgiveness of sins to those who trust in Him. He is there with comfort and peace for His people. Every week.

As we gather together in church under His name, we know that Christ is with us, just as He has promised to be. This is our joy, the joy of all the earth.

Join us on Sundays as we gather together to praise this Christ, who will come to us as truly as He came to earth on that first Christmas.