

A Midweek Devotional

ADVENT

December 4, 2024



Pastoral Staff

Rev. D. Lee Andrzejewski
Head Pastor

Rev. Dr. David PE Maier
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. John L. Heins
Assisting Pastor

Rev. Ronald Guettler
Assisting Pastor

Rev. James Rolf
Assisting Pastor

Rev. Peter Nickel
Assisting Pastor

Rev. Alan Eisinger
Assisting Pastor

Rev. Dr. Gerberding, *Emeritus*
Rev. J. Gruetzner, *Emeritus*

Staff

Mr. Karl Osterland
Director of Music Ministry

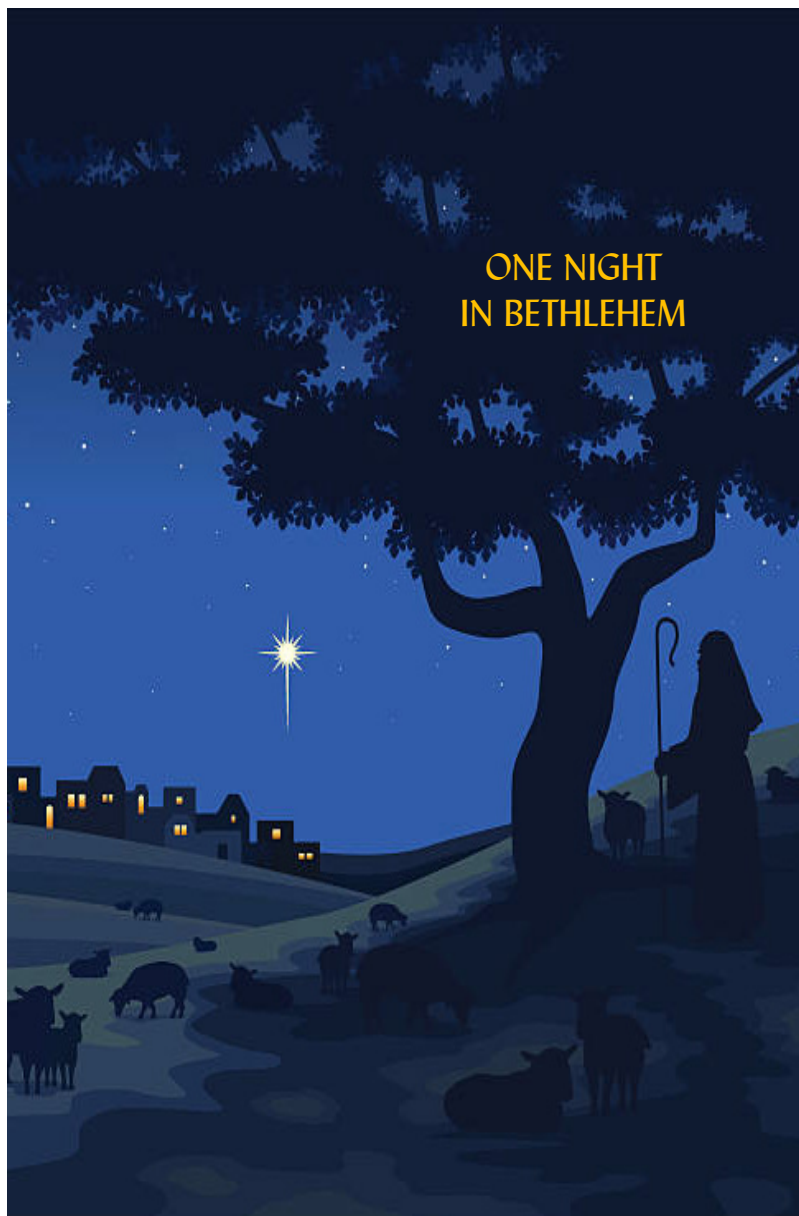
Mrs. Mariana Stecker
Office Manager

Mrs. Tammy Eberhard
Director of Operations

Mrs. Kristen Andrzejewski
Financial Secretary

Mrs. Stephanie Listman
Office Assistant

Mrs. Susan Lockhart
Office Assistant



ONE NIGHT
IN BETHLEHEM



Historic
TRINITY
since 1850
DETROIT
America's Lutheran Cathedral

1345 Gratiot Ave. Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 567-3100
historictrinity.org

Historic Trinity
Lutheran Church

One Night in Bethlehem

An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent Devotional

Service One: At the Inn

December 4, 2024

“Hark the Glad Sound”

Benjamin M. Culli

PRELUDE @12pm

CAROLING @6:30pm

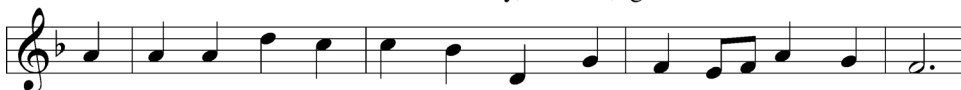
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361 v. 1-2



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



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.



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,



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!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People:  Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, you are one of the little clans of Judah.

People: **But from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule Israel. His kingdom is eternal.**

Pastor: Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, he will lead his people.

People: **He will care for them by the power and glorious name of the Lord his God.**

Pastor: His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know his true greatness,
People: **because he will bring peace.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up, stir up, O Lord, your power. Come quickly to save us. We need protection from the grave dangers of our sins. We require release from the sin-shackles that hold us. You, O Key of David, have the power to forever free us, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

♪ **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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: As we wait for and watch for Your coming, O Lord, we are aware of our sinfulness and our need for repentance.

People: **All of us have become like one who is unclean.**

Pastor: All our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

People: **We wander from Your ways. Our hearts are hardened against You.**

Pastor: We continue to sin against You. We are unprepared for Your return.

People: **We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We deserve Your punishment. We seek Your forgiveness. In the name of Jesus, and because of His sacrifice for us, forgive us our sin.**

Pastor: God is our loving Father. He is our Redeemer. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, came down from heaven to be our Savior. Because of His incarnation, life, death, and resurrection we have forgiveness in His name. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: ♪ **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:9-11

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A SONG AND A PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7 and LSB 366 v. 2-3

People: **♪ Still through the cloven skies the come With peaceful wings unfurled,**

Pastor: From your place among the cherubim, stir up your strength to help your children in need.

People: **♪ And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.**

Pastor: You lead your people like a flock; show your power and save us.

People: **♪ Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.**

Pastor: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

People: **♪ All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,**

Pastor: You have given us sorrow to eat, a large cup of tears to drink.

People: **♪ Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow,**

Pastor: You have made us the scorn of our neighbors, a laughingstock among our enemies.

People: **♪ Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring your peace; Of him the angels sing.**

AT THE INN LITANY

Pastor: Though there was no room for You in the inn, grant this day that I might make abundant room for You in my heart.

People: **Though Your own did not receive You, grant this hour that I may embrace You with open arms.**

Pastor: Though Bethlehem overlooked You in the shuffle of the census, grant me the grace, this quiet moment, to be still and know that You are God.

People: **You, whose only palace was a stable, whose only throne was a Feeding trough, whose only robes were swaddling clothes.**

Pastor: On my knees I confess that I am too conditioned to this world's pomp and pageantry to recognize God cooing in a manger.

People: **Forgive me. Please. And help me understand at least some of what Your birth has to teach—**

Pastor: that divine power is not mediated through strength, but through weakness; that true greatness is not achieved through the assertion of rights, but through their release; and that even the most secular of things can be sacred when You are in their midst.

People: And for those times when you yearn for my fellowship and stand at the door and knock, grant me a special sensitivity to the sound of that knock so I may be quick to my feet.

Pastor: Keep me from letting You stand out in the cold or from ever sending You away to some stable.

People: May my heart always be warm and inviting, so that when You do knock, a worthy place will always be waiting.

ANTHEM @12pm

“Shine, Advent Candle, Shine”
“Sing a Song of Advent”

*Jean Anne Shafferman
Hal H. Hopson
Trinity Lutheran School, Utica*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-7

(At the Inn...)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

HOMILY @12pm

"A Lowly King"

Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Nick Duerr, Associate Pastor

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Utica, MI

@6:30pm

"A Place for Jesus"

Luke 2:7

Rev. Peter Nickel, Cathedral Pastor

Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

OFFERTORY

**♪ God rest ye merry, gentlemen Let nothing you dismay
 Remember, Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas day
 To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray
 O tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy**

VOLUNTARY @12pm

"Come to Christmas"

arr. Lamb

"We Three Kings"

arr. Thompson

Trinity Utica Handbells

Carl Schalk

@6:30pm-

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Please consider support for the work of the Lord at Historic Trinity with a sacrificial gift.
You can donate at historictrinity.org/give, or mail to 1345 Gratiot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207.*



PRAYERS

Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, whose coming we await: We acknowledge the wisdom of your leadership, and entrust ourselves to your care.

People: **The world exists, O God, and is filled with everything we need.**

Pastor: We have been called by the Gospel to be your children, fed by your Word and enlightened by your Spirit

People: **according to your plan and promise.**

Pastor: We gather to worship at this special time of year, anticipating blessings yet to be given

People: **according to your plan and promise.**

Pastor: Grant us the grace to follow faithfully, so that, as Mary and Joseph bent in humble faith to your gracious will, we may also live lives of happy service—

People: **proclaimers of your promise and ambassadors of your grace.**

Pastor: In great humility your dear Son descended from his throne on high to take his place among us.

People: **All we like sheep had gone astray.**

Pastor: And Christ our Savior bore the iniquity of all of us, that we might be forgiven and restored.

People: **The Good Shepherd laid down his life for the sheep,**

Pastor: so that, where pastures are green and waters are still—or even in the shadow of darkest danger—we might enjoy the protection of your presence, the comfort of your rod and staff, the welcome of an overflowing cup,

People: **the promise of a place in your eternal sheepfold, where we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Pastor: As you call us to follow, continue to guide the rulers of this world and the events of history,

People: **that people everywhere may come to confess your lordship and place their trust in your dear Son.**

Pastor: Let the good tidings of great joy be proclaimed in our own homes and our communities,

People: **and wherever in the world your witnesses go forth to bear the name of Christ.**

Pastor: In hospitals and nursing homes, in homeless shelters and soup kitchens, wherever people are in need... and where the time of death draws near.

Let his Advent promise find fulfillment, in the coming of our Lord.

People: Lead on, O gracious God, until our journey here is done, and we are welcomed by your grace into that place that is prepared for us, through the merits of the One who has come and who will come again, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 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.

BENEDICTION

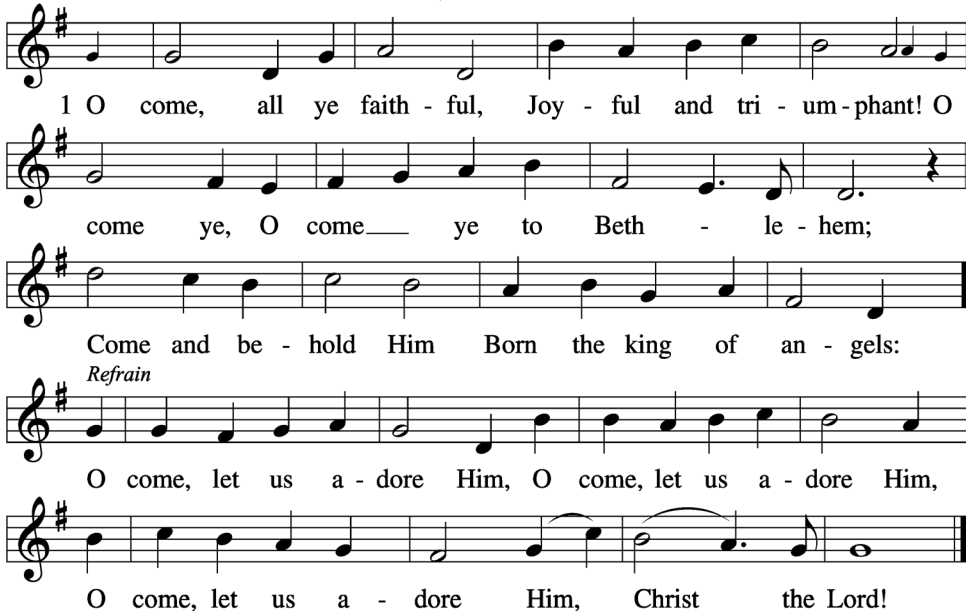
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The ✱ Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: 
A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379 v. 1



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
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!

POSTLUDE @12pm-
@6:30pm-

**"Adeste Fideles"
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

*Jacob B. Weber
Sharon Elery Rogers*