



Trinity United Church of Christ

Christmas in July

Service of Celebration

*“The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

John 1:5 NIV

Trinity has been letting God’s light shine since 1901!

We worship God and seek to share His Word with everyone through faith in Jesus Christ

*And remember, no matter who you are,
or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here at Trinity!*

Christmas in July Order of Worship

Sounding of the Bells

Throughout the centuries, bells have rung to call people to worship or bring them news. During Advent we use the chiming of the bell to joyously call us to worship, and prepare for coming of the Christ child.

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9: 2 & 6 NIV

Opening Prayer

Adapted from Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

Lord we gather today remembering the birth of your son, our savior, Jesus.

During this time of worship, be with us.

In the comfort of carols,

Many: Be with us as we sing of hope which can lift any despair which may envelop us. In the familiar words, scriptures, stories and rituals today, speak to us of grace which is born into barren lives, to bring us hope. In the silence, let us hear your still speaking voice whisper joy filling our souls with peace and reassurance. In the expectant wide eyes of little ones whose attention is turned towards gifts, give us youthful ears and eyes of awe that come with the Christmas season. Draw us closer to Your heart so we can be surprised by wonder, embraced by tenderness, and rediscover miracles all around us. Amen.

Words of Welcome and Announcements

*** Opening Carol**

O Come All Ye Faithful

1) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come now, O come now to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;

3.) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest:”

Refrain:

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

Refrain

2.) God of true God, Light of true Light
born of the Virgin's womb in human form;
Truly our God, begotten, not created

4.) Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be all glory given
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Refrain

*** Call to Worship**

based on one by Rev. Thom Shuman

One: With eyes wide open and our ears on edge,

ALL: We look for shepherds and listen for the songs of angels.

Call to Worship continued

One: In the light of a summer's day, and remembering Bethlehem's star guiding our way,

ALL: We gather outside the door of a mystery, wondering if we dare go enter.

One: With folks and friends we love, with strangers we have just met,

ALL: We gather today, becoming the holy family for this time and in this place.

Come, let us walk together in the light of the Lord

Luke 2: 1 – 7

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph 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. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And 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.

Carol

Away in a Manger

1) Away in a manger, no crib for his bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay

2) The cattle are lowing the poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my side til morning is nigh

3) Be near me Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And take us to heaven to live with thee there

Luke 2: 8 – 14

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,
and on earth peace, and good will among people

* Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 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

2 Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ our lord, the new born king

Refrain

4 See the babe in manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

Refrain

Offering Our Gifts to God

One: As we remember the gift of Your son, remind us God of those who struggle to put food on the table, to buy a single gift for their child, to wrap a warm blanket around a grandparent, so we might realize how blessed we are and share from our abundance to further the ministry of Trinity church out into our community.

To mail your offering or pledge, please send it to

Trinity United Church of Christ, 311 E. Moses Ave. Westville, IL. 61883

Our Morning offering will now be received

* Doxology

Emmanuel

*Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el,
His name is called, Em-man-u-el
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called, Em-man-u-el*

* One: Let us pray...

Many: There are so many things to be thankful for today, God. Receive and bless these tokens of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the babe of Bethlehem. May they breathe magic back into a world that needs to rekindle a sense of wonder and joy in remembering what Christmas is all about.
Amen

Luke 2: 15 – 20

The Shepherds go to Bethlehem

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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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—let "Glory!" ring
with peace to all on earth!</p> | <p>3.) How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of the heav'ns.
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 know the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel</p> |
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A Brief Reflection on Christmas in July

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

* Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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| <p>1) Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
<i>Refrain:</i>
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"</p> <p>3) Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
<i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>2) Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
<i>Refrain</i></p> |
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Prayers of the People

Please drop off any prayer requests in the basket located in the narthex.
Please only first names, and keep your prayers appropriate to our worship.

If you are worshipping via Facebook Livestream

Please type in and post in the comments section and share any prayer requests.

We will try and get to every prayer posted during worship.

If we don't get to your request, we will lift up your requests after worship.

After Pastor David reads the petition, he will say "Lord in Your mercy,"
and the congregation will respond with **"Hear our prayer..."**

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

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

Blessing and Benediction

One: Go now in wonder to bring light to those in darkness, and isolation.
Go now to bring joy to those who can find no joy, and magic to a world steeped in realism.
Go now with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts.
Go and spread the word—the babe of Bethlehem is born for all.
May the love of God empower you, the light of Christ guide you, and the Holy Spirit bless you with laughter
and joy every step of your journey. Merry Christmas!

Many: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord

*** Carol**

Silent Night

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!"

3.) Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant, beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

*** Proclamation**

adapted from Isaiah 9:2

One: Arise, shine! Your light has come! The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. As you joyfully leave here today, be emboldened by the wonders of God's love to let your light shine in the darkest corners of our journey.

Many: Hallelujah! Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*** Carol of Departure**

Joy to the World

1.) Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry 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.) 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.

*** Congregational Response (unaccompanied)**

"A-men!"

*Thank you for worshipping with us today!
And remember, no matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here at Trinity!*

