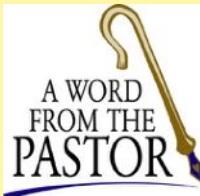




The Trinity Times



REFLECTIONS FOR JANUARY!

I am very slow at making decisions. I like to weigh all the possible outcomes, that I can think of, before making a decision.

This made the question from our Worship Team Leader, Carol Hollich, a difficult one: “Do we focus our worship service on Jan 7 on Epiphany or on the Baptism of the Lord?” Since both could be the focal point I grappled with this question and was reminded of what both of these mean to us as children of God.

On the one hand...

The coming of the Magi, calls to mind the three wise men’s visit. Many Latin Countries celebrate the visit of the Magi with sharing the gift of God to humanity with food and presents. And after opening all our Christmas presents, we realize we that the greatest present to open is a gift from God!

That gift is a **Brand New Year** to accept Christ into our hearts and a new opportunity to walk more closely with the our Lord. What it holds is unknown, but we can embrace it with Jesus in our hearts! All the possibilities of the New Year bring us renewed hope because we know who holds the future!

On the other hand...

With the Baptism of the Lord, the Scribes and Pharisees inquiring of John received their answer with one amazing sentence, “**And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”** - Mark 1:11

Therefore, on the 1st Sunday in January we will celebrate the gift of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that arrived in the person of Jesus Christ who is both human and God! For this moment in time, we will focus on the Word *Emmanuel*, which is God with us.

God is with us! We are not alone in this sin-sick world. God is only a prayer away, Jesus walks with us and talks with us at all times, and the Holy Spirit guides and empowers us to choose life, to choose God incarnate, to choose light, even as we, many times, have to walk in darkness.

As we sang **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**, as a benediction response this past month, we embraced the coming of Christ into our world. January should remind us of the need to embrace Him who is with us, among us, and near to all those who call upon him!

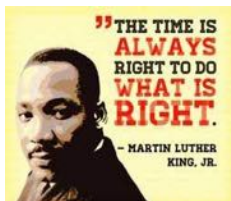
Pastor Jessica

HELP PLAN TRINITY'S 2024 FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR



Please come and help plan Church fellowship events for the upcoming new year on Sunday, January 7 at 11:30 a.m. There will be pizza and snacks for lunch. Ideas like Munchin’ Methodists, Spaghetti Supper, the BAZAAR, repairs in the church, and special Church Fellowship trips will be in the mix of activities considered. Bring your new ideas and help us enjoy a 2024 of fun-filled fellowship and community events! (The snow date is January 14.)

We celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr Day, on Monday, January 15, 2024. Observed on the 3rd Monday in January as “A day on, not a day off”, it is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service, to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.





Thanks to all who help to make Christmas special each year...

The Pastor, the Liturgists, the musicians, the Zoom producers, the secretary sending out all those bulletins, the bell ringers at the market, the people who donated for the LCCM food bank and the Christmas stockings for the nursing homes, and the volunteers who delivered the gorgeous poinsettias. Each of you helps us remember that Jesus is the reason for the Season!

Liturgists

- Jan. 7 - Barb Query
- Jan. 14 - Dea Kishpaugh
- Jan. 21 - Betsy Allwein
- Jan. 28 - Karen Neblock



If you are unable to serve as lay reader, please call... 717-838-2812

- 04... Leslie Dissinger
- 18... Joyce Twigg
- 20... George Wilkins
- 30 ... Claire Earle
- 30... Tammy Smith-Thompson



Rachel Circle in January...

All are invited to join us on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 1:30 at the church. Our topic for the day is Blackaby's, "Experiencing the Cross". We will talk about chapters 14 & 15. Then on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 1:30 (again at the church) we will finish the Blackaby book with a discussion about chapters 16, 17, & 18. Hope to see you! Blessings,
Marilyn Smith



Karen, Bob, & Matt Neblock
750 School House Plaza
Annville, PA 17003
717-270-1954 (landline)
e-mail: lebdoc1@comcast.net

Please be sure to alert Church Secretary, Deb Forry at the church (717-273-1970) with any changes for the Church Directory! Thanks!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 11th, Trinity will be celebrating Souper Bowl Sunday. We will again collect cans of soup and monetary donations to be delivered to Lebanon County Christian Ministries. You're invited to wear your team colors to church. In previous years, Trinity folk have generously supported this outreach ministry. Thank you in advance for your generosity again this year.



Redner's Receipts

Don't forget to drop your Redner's Receipts into the box that is provided in the Parlor! Even if you don't shop at Redner's, perhaps a friend or family member does... those receipts add up and are an easy way to generate a little extra income for the church! To date we are nearing \$1000 received by saving Redner's Receipts!



Our Church Prayer

*Dear Lord,
We love you and we praise your Holy Name.
Help us to be an obedient church. Help us
to love one another, reach out with love to
the needy and oppressed. We pray for
strength to continue the work you have
called us to do. Help us to reach out as we
reach up to you. By your mercy grant us
healing, compassion, and strength to do
your blessed will for ourselves,
our families, our community,
our conference, & our world.
In the Name of Jesus our
Lord and Savior we pray.
Amen.*



PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



*Each month the pastor is
asked to help members of
Trinity or the community
as they go through difficult
times. Gifts placed on the
Offering plate and marked "Discretionary
Fund" is one way you can support this special
fund. Please consider helping those in need!*



THANK YOU

*Thanks to the Clark
family for hosting the
Choir Christmas party. The
food was great, the caroling was fun,
and the fellowship outside of rehearsals
was greatly appreciated. I love all of
you and still enjoy directing our
choir. You are a great group to work
with! Thanks again,*

Carol

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <i>The Baron family</i> | <i>Joy Ellen Bastien & family</i> |
| <i>Jason Boyer</i> | <i>Penny Brown</i> |
| <i>Jill Brickley</i> | <i>The Brossman family</i> |
| <i>The Clark Family</i> | <i>Chris Daubert</i> |
| <i>Kitty Fair</i> | <i>Ted Frey</i> |
| <i>Sue Fitzgibbon</i> | <i>The Geist family</i> |
| <i>Kim Hollich</i> | <i>Brian Hummer</i> |
| <i>The Koziara family</i> | <i>Yvonne Kuhn</i> |
| <i>Tom Leahy</i> | <i>Carol Masemore</i> |
| <i>The Neblock family</i> | <i>Beverly Palm</i> |
| <i>Linda Perini</i> | <i>Matilda Phillippi</i> |
| <i>Phyllis</i> | <i>Alissa Plant</i> |
| <i>Sydney Rice</i> | <i>Don & Bonnie Sherman</i> |
| <i>Marilyn Smith</i> | <i>The Snavely family</i> |
| <i>The Snyder family</i> | <i>Reba Sterner family</i> |
| <i>Jack Stouffer</i> | <i>Tina Washington & family</i> |
| <i>Pat Swartz & family</i> | <i>Judith Wentzel</i> |
| <i>The Wire family</i> | <i>Joyce Twigg & family</i> |
| <i>Carol Yeagley & family</i> | <i>Dave Wease & family</i> |
| <i>George Wilkins family</i> | <i>The Zehring family</i> |
| <i>Our Church, Community, Country, and World</i> | |
| <i>Families & recovering victims of violence</i> | |
| <i>Issues surrounding the Ukraine</i> | |
| <i>All impacted by the violence between Israel & Hamas</i> | |
| <i>All who are sick & shut in & their caretakers</i> | |
| <i>An end to war, hatred, divisiveness, & oppression</i> | |
| <i>All those impacted by disasters around the world</i> | |
| <i>Our men and women in uniform</i> | |
| <i>Our children to know, learn, and grow, in the Lord.</i> | |
| <i>Our DS, The Rev. Jenny Freymover, Bishop Schol</i> | |
| <i>Our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference</i> | |
| <i>The United Methodist Church</i> | |

A PRAYER FOR JANUARY

*Dear Lord,
Thank you for bringing us into this brand new
year. A brand new year to begin anew in our
love for you. For you gave us life, and you
continue to give us hope, joy, and peace. You
loved us so much that you gave us your only
begotten Son that we may have life, and have
that life to the full. Grant your love, light,
grace, healing, and mercy to all of your
children today. Bring an end to war and hatred
and suffering. We pray that you will meet the
needs of all on our prayer list as we lift up our
hearts to you in praise, petition and
thanksgiving. Thank you Lord. In Jesus Name
We Pray. Amen*

Pastor Jessica

Adult Sunday School – January



Learning About Faith is the focus of our lessons in January as we continue the winter theme of **Faith That Pleases God**. Faith is “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”. Faith demands that we trust the Lord rather than ourselves. King Jehoshaphat demonstrates one example of confident faith. Enemies had come against Judah, resulting in the people’s fear. However, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the Levite, who reminded King Jehoshaphat that the battle belonged to the Lord and the Lord alone.

Christians have another reason to be confident: despite life’s challenges, we do not live that life alone. The apostle Paul taught that through faith, Christians become “one body” with other believers. As members of that body, we receive spiritual gifts that we can use to serve and encourage the whole body. In January, we are reminded that a faith that pleases God is a faith that is shown in lives that are lived in accordance with his commandments!

January 7	Faith and Righteousness	Hebrews 11:1–4a, 7a, 8, 17–18, 20–23, 32, 39–40
January 14	Faith and Trust	Proverbs 3:1–8
January 21	Faith and Encouragement	2 Chronicles 20:13–20
January 28	Faith and Transformation	Romans 12:3–8

The Lord speaks to each of us individually— but if we do not learn to listen to Him, how will we ever have a relationship with Him? We all make mistakes and fail to rely on God. We run ahead of His timing, trying to invent our own solutions to the problems we face, or achieve the desires of our hearts in our own ways. Although there are certainly consequences for this, we must never imagine that the Father gives up on us.

To all appearances, it seems absurd to bury seeds in the ground. Yet farmers have no doubt! They dig seeds into the ground and have faith that there will be fair weather. If you tell them that what they are doing is an absurd thing, they will smile at your ignorance, and tell you that the harvest will come. There is a picture of the faith that grows from experience and gives us an example of to act in a manner contrary to appearances.



One night a house caught fire and a young boy was trapped inside the house. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters." Faith enables us to face life or meet death, not because we can see, but with the certainty that we are seen; not that we know all the answers, but that we are known. Join us this month as we study and seek **Learning about Faith that pleases God...**

January 7

1. Who offered “a better offering” to God? (Abraham, Cain, Abel) *Hebrews 11:4*
2. Who gave deathbed instructions regarding his bones? (Isaac, Jacob, Joseph) *Hebrews 11:22*

January 14

1. The son is commanded to bind around his neck? (Choose two: grace, peace, love, faithfulness) *Proverbs 3:3*
2. The son is commanded to “trust in the Lord” with all his strength. T/F. *Proverbs 3:5*

January 21

1. The people of Judah were reminded that “the _____ is not yours, but God’s.” *2 Chronicles 20:15*
2. Levites stood up and praised the Lord with a loud _____. *2 Chronicles 20:19*

January 28

1. Members of the body do not have the same “function.” T/F. *Romans 12:4*
2. Believers have different gifts according to the _____ that is given. *Romans 12:6*

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING *Minutes - December 11, 2023 via ZOOM*



Facilitator - George Hollich

Minutes - Carol Hollich

Attendance - Gloria Clark, Sally DeJesus, Keith Earle, Carol Hollich, George Hollich, Dea Kishpaugh, Jack Kishpaugh, Barb Querry, Pastor Jessica Ross, Marilyn Smith, Reba Sterner, Dave Walleit, & Barb Walleit

Housekeeping – Attendance, Approval of Past Minutes & Agenda

Devotions – *What Child is This? “Be strong and courageous. Wait for the Lord.” -Psalm 27:14*

Calendar Dates that Reflect our Ministry - All meetings are via Zoom unless announced differently.

December 11 - Ad Board (7:00)

December 13 – Munchin’ Methodists at Vo Tech (10:30)

December 17 – Christmas Covered Dish Breakfast (9:00)
Worship – 3rd Sunday of Advent (10:00)
Worship at American House (2:30)

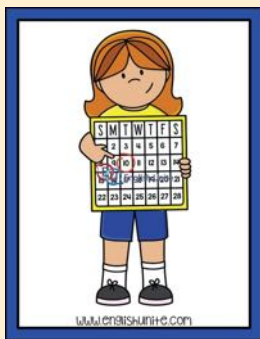
December 21 – Blue Christmas Service (7:00) (6:30 fellowship)

December 24 – Worship at 9:15 (4th Sunday of Advent)
Worship at 7:00. (Christmas Eve Candlelight Service)

December 28 – Trinity Fellowship at AMT (3:00)
Trinity at Willow Terrace (4-6, games & pizza)



JANUARY



January 7 – Worship & Communion
Fellowship Planning (11:30 -2:30)

January 8 - Rachel Circle at Trinity (1:30)

January 10 – Munchin’ Methodists at ? (11:30)

January 21 – Worship at American House (2:30)

January 22 – Rachel Circle at Trinity (1:30)

January 25 – Trinity at Willow Terrace (6-8)

February 1 – Worship Team (7:00)

February 4 – Worship & Communion

February 7 – Staff Parish (7:00)

February 12 - Ad Board (7:00)

February 14 – Munchin’ Methodists at the VoTech for “Love Week” (Sign up)
Ash Wednesday (Combined Link) service at Hebron (7:00) (Combined Choir)

Discussion - Current or Emerging Projects that Clarify Our Ministry

- **Bible Studies** – Rev. Rick Clark is conducting an Advent Study using the book, *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton on Thursdays at 10:30 on Zoom. Pastor Jessica’s 6:30 Wednesday evening Bible Study on the *Book of Revelation* will conclude in January with a new topic selected for Lenten study. Adult Sunday School continues to meet every Sunday after worship and is currently using a series of lessons entitled, ***Learning about Faith.***
- **Communications** – Gloria Clark reported that during the months of October and November we had 82 followers on Facebook. The anthems were also listened to. On the Web site, we had 2 on-line givers, 57 visits, and 89 unique views. The new sign board is getting attention and because of the computer technology can be changed frequently... often several times a week. The *Trinity Times* is distributed at the start of each month. We were reminded that all items must be into George Hollich by the 19th of the month. Also, photos are most appreciated!
- **Cleaning Services** – The company has received a schedule of items that need to be done on a regular basis and other items that are required periodically. If items need to be added or changed, we need to alert them to the change!
- **LINKS** – There was a combined Thanksgiving Eve and Barb Querry sang with the choir. The combined Ash Wednesday service will be held at Hebron UMC with Jeff Kapp preaching and a combined choir led by Dan Hoover.
- **Use of Church Spaces** – Narcotics Anonymous continues to meet at Trinity on Tuesdays and Saturdays. There are several parking spaces that are rented out for weekday use.



Highlights from Reports that Support Our Ministry

- **Trustees – Jack Kishpaugh** – A donation was received for the use of the church for Tiffany DeJesus and James Painter wedding. We also received an anonymous donation to help with expenses for fixing the heating system. **Precision** is the new HVAC company we are using. New thermostats have been added, repairs made, and a maintenance agreement signed. We needed to install new emergency lighting fixtures since parts for the old system were no longer available. Incandescent lights for the Sanctuary are also no longer available. Updating the Sanctuary lighting to LEDS is scheduled for later in December... hopefully before Christmas.



- **Worship Team – Carol Hollich** – Darrell Woomer submitted a proposal to Staff Parish (which was accepted) to play organ for the year 2024. Tillie Phillipy will play organ on December 31 (her last service unless she is asked to substitute) and Connie Steinke played for the communion service on December 3. Connie has agreed to continue as our substitute organist. These 3 have been such a blessing to Trinity over these last 6 months and we thank them for their service to Trinity. The poinsettias, Christmas trees, creche, and candlesticks will be added to the sanctuary on the Sundays leading up to our Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service. George had the camera worked on and the mics checked – still having some issues with both. There will be a “Blue Christmas” service (for those who have lost family or friends) on Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 with fellowship beginning at 6:30. Pastor Jessica has invited the LINK churches to join us for this special time of remembering those we lost during the past year. The combined Ash Wednesday service will be at Hebron UMC. A listing of those who requested Poinsettias to remember and honor loved ones will be included with the bulletins on December 17 & 24.

- **Finance – Keith Earle & Barb Query** – Good news! Our receipts in November surpassed our expenses and we are hopeful that this continues in December! We had an anonymous gift for boiler expenses and Leslie Dissinger paid for our Bazaar ad in the Merchandiser. We have been told by the conference that the pastor’s housing allowance can come from the money from the sale of the parsonage. This will be a help to our general budget.



- **Missions – Dea Kishpaugh** – In October, we gave 264 pounds of food to LCCM and 71 pounds of food to the Rescue Mission. You gifts on Harvest Home Sunday provided 146 pounds of food for LCCM. In December we donated 34 bags of toiletries to the City and County Church Women to give to the different nursing homes. In January we will collect hats and gloves for the *Mitten Tree* which will go to the Lebanon school students. It was suggested that since Flood Bucket items are so specific, that we consider giving monetary donations to Trinity for the Flood Buckets, so the exact items can be gotten for the victims of disasters.
- **Special Projects – Sally DeJesus** – The Christmas get-together for Willow Terrace will be from 4:00 -6:00 on December 28th. The Sunday Morning Craft Table made 40 ornaments for Christmas Eve. After Christmas, they will begin making *thank-you gifts* for the Lebanon Schools.
- **Staff Parish – Keith Earle** – A proposal from Darrell Woomer to fill the Organ Position in 2024 was accepted. Carol Hollich was authorized to offer Darrell the position and work-out the details as it relates to playing for Choir and on non-Sunday worship services. Connie Steinke will play for the Blue Christmas service and will serve as our substitute Organist in 2024. Staff evaluations are still being done.
- **Parish Visitor – Rick Clark** – Rick assisted at Joyce Dissinger’s funeral. As his health continues to improve, he sends cards and calls the homebound and sick. We continue to get notes of appreciation for his attention to those he contacts.
- **Pastor Jessica** – A copy of Pastor Jessica’s full report is available in the office. Some of the highlights from her report include officiating at the funeral for Joyce Dissinger and her continuing communication with the Zehring family on the death of Walt and the moving of Kathy into Cedar Haven. She asks for prayers for all those hurting. She is moved by the generosity of the congregation and their cards, calls, food delivery, and helping her with her move to a new apartment. She also thanks us for providing a new refrigerator for her apartment. The *American House* services on the third Sunday afternoon are going well. There are now about 25 residents that worship with her. She thanks those who donate snacks and/or drinks for the fellowship time following worship and expresses special thanks to Mary Gruber for the amazing cupcakes and Barb Query for her help with the services. She thought the Bazaar was amazing! All forms have been submitted to the conference. She also has daily visiting and counseling. She closed her report by thanking the church for her raise!
- **Other** – It was suggested that the sign-up sheets from the bulletin board in the hallway be moved to the parlor.



The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Jessica at 8:50.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Monday, February 12 – 7pm via Zoom
(Ad Board Meeting Schedule – February, April, June, August, October, December)

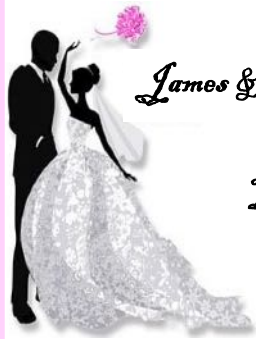
Congratulations on Your Wedding Day

December 9, 2023

James & Tiffany (De Jesus) Painter

122 Canal St

Lebanon, PA 17046



MUNCHIN' METHODISTS'

January's monthly
fellowship luncheon
will take place on

Wednesday, January 10th at a
location still to be determined!
Watch for the bulletin board sign-
up in early January.



A thank you from George Smith...

I wanted to check in with the church and say "Hi," and "Thanks!"

Centenary (that's what they called it before the consolidation) was a huge part of my life. I still remember the wooden keg chairs, parachute ceiling decorations and overall "70s vibe" in the teenager youth Sunday school room. Other churches would bring their class to our room to check us out.

I also remember reading out loud different parts of the scripture. That and my high school speech classes helped set me on life's highway. More on where my journey took me, but first a confession. When I went to church, I sometimes put "I owe you 25 cents," or a piece of paper labeled 'one Polish nickel' in the offering envelope. Now that I've confessed that the rascal you were looking for was me, I feel much better.

What I can say is Centenary gave me a moral compass, a strong sense of community, and an introduction to God. Later in life when I went through a divorce, Centerpoint Free Methodist Church in California helped me get through a difficult time.

My Mom asked me to share my story with you, as well as letting you know what I've been up to lately. Who am I to disagree with Mom? I wrote a book called "Soldier of the Airwaves: Defending Democracy One Song at a Time." It's filled with slices of home, humor, and history. Give it a gander! You can find the book at Amazon! Here's a link: <https://a.co/d/hmCd69G>

Sunday School - December 31 THE FAITH OF THE WISE MEN

Lesson 5, Matthew 2:1-12, NIV

Baby Gifts

Take one minute to rank these baby gifts from best to worst (1-best, 15-worst). A poll of your class will be taken after you rank the gifts. Be prepared to explain why you think your top three choices are the best baby gifts.

_____ blanket
_____ books
_____ bottles
_____ candy
_____ car seat

_____ clothes
_____ college savings fund
_____ crib
_____ diapers
_____ gold

_____ new car
_____ ointment/oils
_____ pacifier/soothing toys
_____ perfume
_____ stuffed animals

(Thoughts to consider in the upcoming week.)

Study Texts: Micah 5:2–4; Matthew 2:1–12

KEY VERSE: “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” —Matthew 2:2



Still Seeking Jesus?

The Christmas season reveals many sayings that try to encapsulate the meaning of the holiday in just a few words. Near my neighborhood, one house always displays a banner that reads, “Christ is the reason for the season.” Another neighbor annually displays a sign proclaiming, “Let’s put Christ back in Christmas.” These sayings are self-explanatory. After all, why have a season bearing the name of Christ without consideration of Christ himself? Even asking that question shows the absurdity of some secular Christmas traditions. Should Christmas remind us of cola-drinking polar bears in red mufflers? Clydesdales hauling a beer wagon? A snowman come to life? Or is there something more important? Another saying requires a bit of knowledge of the biblical Christmas story to make sense: “Wise men still seek him.” This saying is based on the account in today’s text.

“The Star”

As I was channel-surfing one day, I chanced upon a science-fiction tale. It was a TV adaptation of a short story titled “The Star,” written by Arthur C. Clarke in 1954. The plot involved a spaceship that was exploring the Phoenix Nebula, the remnant of a star that had exploded as a supernova. Aboard the spacecraft was a Roman Catholic priest highly skilled in astrophysics. As the exploration progressed, a horrific truth dawned on him: this supernova had been the star of Bethlehem. The viewer was drawn to the conclusion that an entire civilization that was “disturbingly human” had been exterminated by this supernova. The result for the priest was a crisis of faith. Such stories can engage the imagination in profound ways, but the imaginative elements are (or should be) easily recognized. When it comes to pondering rightly God’s provisions for humanity, it’s vital to avoid speculations and to stick with established facts: (1) the wise men were guided by a phenomenon provided by God, and (2) the “how” of that phenomenon is not provided. When you are pondering how God may be guiding you, how much effort do you devote to separating fact from imaginative thinking?

The Great and the Terrible

Ivan IV was born into the royal family of Russia in the year 1530. At 16, Ivan was crowned “tsar and grand prince of all Russia” by the Russian Orthodox Church and became the undisputed leader of feudal Russia. Ivan was convinced that he was God’s representative on earth. Therefore, Ivan saw extending the power of “Holy Russia” over neighboring countries as his duty. Moreover, he thought it was his right and responsibility to punish the sins of his rivals with unspeakable tortures that were fashioned after medieval ideas of hell. Increasingly mentally unstable, he killed his eldest son and heir to the throne in a fit of rage. By his death at age 53, he had thoroughly earned his reputation as “Ivan the Terrible.” Political leaders such as Herod and Ivan aren’t the only ones susceptible to seeing themselves as God’s infallible representatives. Many others have fallen (or jumped) into that trap. Ordinary people still use the name of Jesus to advance their agendas. As the modern saying goes, “Hands are the window to the intent.” However, Jesus had this idea first. To know who follows Jesus, we must look at what they do. And when we look at them, let’s make sure to look at ourselves as well.

1. **What is the difference between being physically lost and being spiritually lost?**
2. **As we plan for the New Year, how are we planning to bring our best gifts to Jesus?**
3. **2000 years ago, the Magi followed His call. Are we following His call in our lives today?**

Trinity United Methodist Church

757 Willow Street, Lebanon, Pa. 17046

Where "Faith, Hope and Love abide to encourage all to respond to the call of Christ."

1st Sunday After Christmas– December 31, 2023

(The service begins at 9:15 with the fellowship area opening at 9:00.)

To be a part of 9:15 worship on the computer go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84509652092>
or join by phone by dialing 1-646-876-9923 and entering 845 0965 2092 when prompted.

The flowers on the altar are presented by Beverly Palm
in memory of her parents, George & Pauline Palm

Gathering Music

Prelude *O God Our Help in Ages Past - Young*

Organist: Matilda Phillippy

Welcome & Announcements

Liturgist: Rev. Richard Clark

Call to Worship

Psalm 8

Hymnal #743

L: O Lord, our Lord,

P: how majestic is your name in all the earth!

L: Your glory is chanted above the heavens by the mouths of babes and infants

P: you have set up a defense against your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

P: the moon and the stars which you have established;

L: what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

P: and mortals that you care for them?

L: Yet you have made them little less than God,

P: and crowned them with glory and honor.

L: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

P: you have put all things under their feet,

L: all sheep and oxen,

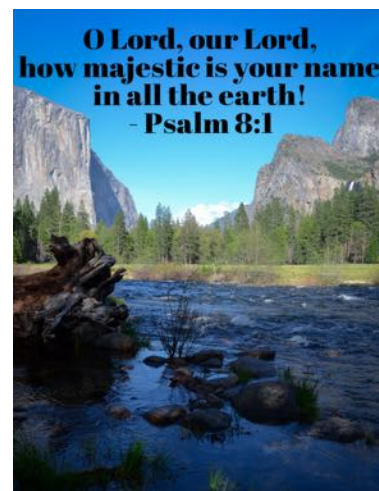
P: and also the beasts of the field,

L: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

P: whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

L: O Lord, our Lord,

P: how majestic is your name in all the earth!



Hymn # 140: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not, as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: *Great is Thy faithfulness Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **(Refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with 10,000 beside. **(Refrain)**

Opening Prayer

BOW #524

O creator and mighty God, you have promised strength for the weak, rest for the laborers, light for the way, grace for the trials, help from above, unfailing sympathy, undying love. O creator and mighty God, help us to continue in your promise. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

O.T. page 616

New Testament Reading

Revelation 21: 1-6a

N.T. page 259

Special Music

Come on, Ring Those Bells - Culverwell

Treble Choir

Doxology & Offering Prayer

Hymn # 219

What Child is This?

What child is this? Who lay to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping

(Chorus) This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent word is pleading ***(Chorus)***

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh come peasant king to own him
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him ***(Chorus)***



Sermon

Tis the Season

Pastor Jessica Ross

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Jessica Ross

Hymn #251

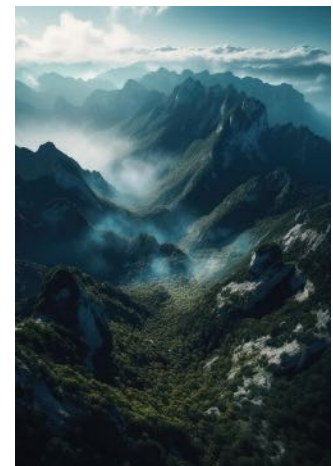
Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy light. ***(Refrain)***

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth ***(Refrain)***

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. ***(Refrain)***



Benediction

Benediction Response ***Go Tell It on the Mountain (refrain)***

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

Postlude

Ring the Bells - Bollback

Organist: Matilda Phillippy



The Faith of the Wise Men

Matthew 2: 1-12