Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry

300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 919-942-2678 | holytrinitychapelhill.org



Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2025 — 8:00pm Livestream & In-person

Holy Trinity is "Mask-Friendly" for all in-person activities.

Whichever your preference regarding mask usage, you are welcome here.

We celebrate an open table for Holy Communion. Please see the back page for more information. Please note that our 8pm service is Livestreamed and broadcast on our YouTube channel.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministries is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Eno, Lumbee, Shakori, Skaruhreh/Tuscarora peoples, and we acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called and continue to call this land their home.

GATHERING

PRELUDE I Wonder As I Wander Megan Mash

arr. Mark Hayes

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing and Angels We Have Heard on High
O Holy Night arr. Ricky Lombardo
Margie Dubnansky, Lynne Franke, and Megan Mash, flutes

WELCOME

GATHERING DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Come, Light of Life

by John Harvey

Lord, in the beginning when all was very dark, you said: 'Let there be light.'
And there was light and life throughout the universe.

And when the human race was exhausted, tired and weary, in the darkness of anxiety, confusion and sin, into the darkness you came as light in Jesus Christ.

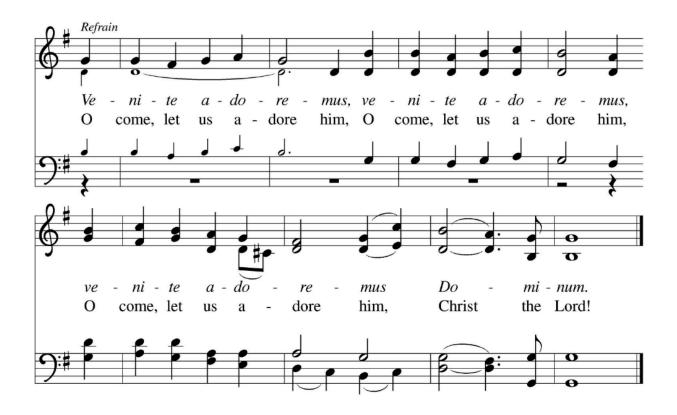
God became a human being among us all.

Once again it is dark.

Not just dark at midnight
but dark with doubt,
dark with fear and uncertainty,
dark with confusing
and conflicting voices in our ears.

As we light the Christ candle we pray, Come, Light of life, lighten the darkness in our lives with your mighty word of love. Lighten our hearts with the joy of your promised coming. Lighten our world with the hope that faith in you still brings. Amen.





Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LITURGICAL DANCE

In the Bleak Midwinter Amelia Evans and Sarah-Anne Stiles, liturgical dancers Rachel Hall, soloist arr. Craig Courtney

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 A reading from Isaiah. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

6

PSALM: Psalm 96

- ¹O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!

 The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

 He will judge the peoples with equity."
- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it;
 - ¹² let the field exult and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the LORD, for he is coming,
 for he is coming to judge the earth.
 He will judge the world with righteousness
 and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

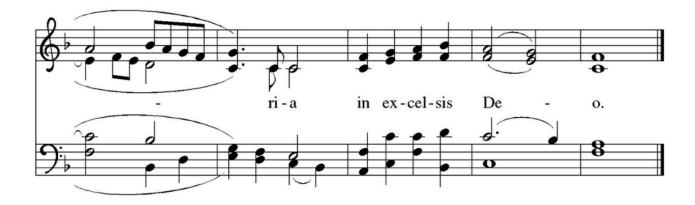
A reading from Titus.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.







Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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 in the guest room.

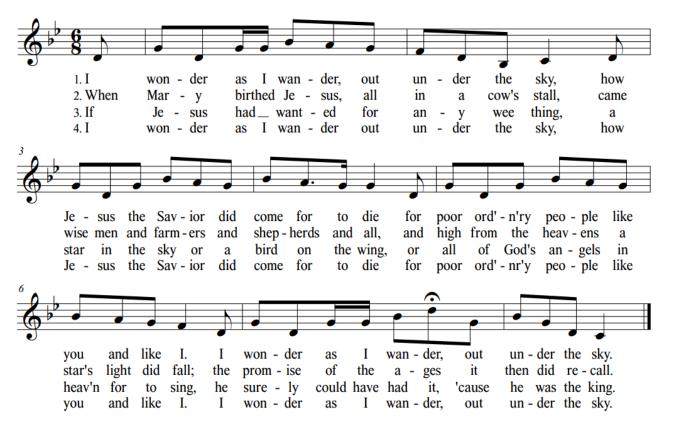
⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you 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 among those whom he favors!"

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 and 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, just as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Angels We Have Heard on High Verse 3 ELW #289



Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, (1892-1980) Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, (1892-1980) © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc, (A.S.C.A.P.)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

The peace of Emmanuel, God with us, is with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING ANTHEM

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Kyle Pederson



Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here. Hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near.

Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel; Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

In stillness lays the world in silent reverie; longing for the birth of love and mercy.
Yearning for hope,

good news to fill our souls; turning to the manger that grounds all mystery.

Angels bending low,
shepherds bend their knee,
Wisemen from the east,
all have come the child to see.
All of creation
where love has come to dwell;
Sing we now of Christmas,
the good news that we tell.

PRAYER AFTER OFFERING

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION
God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Holy Night Rachel Hall, soloist by Adolphe Adam



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

Amen.

SENDING

CANDLE LIGHTING

The assembly stands as the light of Christ is passed during the hymn. Please keep the lit candle upright and tilt the unlit candle towards the flame.



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Musie: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English Melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

sing,

heav'n and na-ture

SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on In dulci jubilo

by David Lasky

Merry Christmas!
Thank you for worshiping with us!

The Assisting Minister is Mandi Stiles.

Altar Guild and Communion Assistants are Ed and Kathleen Collins and Sue Kirkman.

The Lector is Tom Colley.

Poinsettias and LWR 2025

Poinsettias

Given by Sylvia and Fred Black in honor of our Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry staff

Given by The Brodey Family in memory of Ene Marie Thomsen

Given by The Brodey Family in memory of Warren Mortimer Brodey

Given by Sylvia Whitley in memory of loved ones

Given by Tom and Gail Colley in honor of our Church Family

Given by Anna Marie Drake in honor of the Christ Child

Given by Roberta Barrett in memory of my dear friend, Judy Kalleberg

Given by Roberta Barrett in honor of and thankfulness for my children: James and Sharon, Paul and Cheri, Lia and Rob

Given by Marge Freiman in memory of Loved Ones

Given by Glen and Peggy Lehmann

LWR

Given by Gretchen Ritola in memory of Robert Schlichter (father)

Given by Sylvia and Fred Black in honor of our Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry staff

Given by Patrick Weede in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Benton

Given by Patrick Weede in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Weede, Sr.

Given by Patrick Weede in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Weede, Jr.

Given by Eric and Marty Larson in memory of our parents

Given by Anna Marie Drake in honor of the Christ Child

Given by Roger Lundblad in honor of my daughters, Christy Smith and Cindy Maciariello

Given by Marge Freiman in memory of Loved Ones



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	hshipley@holytrinitychapelhill.org	
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	htlc@holytrinitychapelhill.org	
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Worship Center	227 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514	
	Office: (919) 942-2678	
Office Hours	Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 p	om
	Friday 9:00am- 1:00pm	

In case of emergency, please call either Pastor directly.

www.holytrinitychapelhill.org

Instagram: @unc_lcm @htlc_youth @holytrinitychapelhill

Facebook: Holy Trinity Lutheran – Chapel Hill

YouTube: Holy Trinity Chapel Hill

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Come, Light of Life by John Harvey: *Candles & Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent.* Ruth Burgess. Wild Goose Publications: Glasgow. 2005.

Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry!

We are so glad you chose to worship with us, and we hope you experience the love and grace of God in our midst. Please fill out the "Worship Record Sheet" to record your attendance and explore ways to engage with our community of faith by using the QR code or paper sheet. Please sign up for our weekly Email Newsletter by visiting our website at www.holytrinitychapelhill.org, and subscribe to our YouTube channel at "Holy Trinity Chapel Hill". Let us know if you have any prayer requests and how we can support you in your faith journey, either by talking to a Pastor or a Stephen Minister.



Reconciling In Christ

Jesus reached across all boundaries to make God's love known, and in our baptismal covenant we are called to "serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth (ELW pg. 236)." As a Reconciling In Christ church, we at Holy Trinity welcome people of every age and ability, race, culture, religion, class, marital status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Children and Worship

We welcome children in worship and invite them to participate throughout the service. Children are invited to check out our Exploration Station in the Narthex and fill up a Busy Bag for activities during worship. If your child needs some time away from the service, there is a staffed "Cry Room" (glass room near the Sanctuary, towards the Rosemary Street entrance). The service is able to be heard through speakers in the Cry Room. There is also a Nursery room in the back hallway (behind the organ) where children can play with parental supervision.

Holy Communion

At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Believing in the real presence of Christ, HTLC practices Eucharistic hospitality: The Risen Christ welcomes all, therefore all are welcome to commune here. Receive the bread first, then the individual glasses containing (red) wine or (white) grape juice. Allergen-free communion wafers are available at the station in front of the altar. Those desiring not to commune may fold their hands to receive a blessing. Please let an usher or pastor know if you need communion brought to you at your seat.

Offering

In response to God's unconditional love, we offer "what God has first given us; ourselves, our time and our possessions... in feeding the world with God's love (ELW pg. 107)."

There are many ways to give at Holy Trinity: online through our **website**, **mailing in** your offering, placing your offering in our **offering plates** in our Worship Center, automatic **bank withdraws**, through the **QR code** in this worship bulletin, **text to give** at (833) 309-0136, or by **Venmo, our handle is @htlclcm** (Charity - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church). All contributions via text or Venmo will go to the HTLC general budget fund. Thank You!

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity

LCM is a community where ALL are welcome. We seek to accompany students as they encounter increased complexities in life, faith, relationships, and academics here at UNC. If you are (or you know) a student who is interested in getting connected with Campus Ministry, please get in touch with Pastor Katie by emailing her directly, or by using the QR code above to fill out the Worship Record Sheet. Mark "student" and/or "grad student," leave an email/phone number, and Pastor Katie will reach out!