**Trinity United Methodist Church**

December 24th, 2023 10:30 a.m. DIGITAL BULLETIN

Rev. David S. Vallelunga, Pastor; Neva Wacker, Liturgist; Rev. Brian Peterson, Choir Director; Minda Fernish, Pianist;

Christina Wong, Zoomologist

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

PRELUDE, WELCOME, and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP (sung to SLANE)

**We light four candles, our wreath is complete, pondering with Mary, our blessings replete; pausing to savor the shimmering lights,**

**lovely foreshadowing of this holy night!**

**Advent is time for reflection on life, for**

**righting of wrongs and for healing of strife,**

**brothers and sisters, united by love,**

**seeking the wholeness that comes from above.**

HYMN # 215 “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

**To a maid engaged to Joseph,**

**the angel Gabriel came.  
“Fear not,” the angel told her,**

**“I come to bring good news;  
good news I come to tell you,**

**good news, I say, good news.”**

**“For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,  
who even now is with you.**

**You are on earth most blest;  
you are most blest, most blessed;**

**God chose you, you are blest!”**

**But Mary was most troubled**

**to hear the angel’s word.  
What was the angel saying?**

**It troubled her to hear,  
to hear the angel’s message,**

**it troubled her to hear.**

**“Fear not, for God is with you,**

**and you shall bear a child.  
His name shall be called Jesus,**

**God’s offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever,**

**forever reign on high.”**

**“How shall this be?” said Mary,**

**“I am not yet a wife.”  
The angel answered quickly,**

**“The power of the Most High  
will come upon you shortly,**

**your child shall be God’s child.”**

**As Mary heard the angel,**

**she wondered at his words.  
“Behold, I am your handmaid,”**

**she said unto her God.  
“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”**

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US Pastor Dave

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

PRAYER SONG # 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**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.**

**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 to God the King,**

**and peace to all the earth.**

**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.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels,**

**the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Dave

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38 Liturgist

MUSICAL INSPIRATION “Carol of the Bagpipers” HOMILY “Confused Yet Compliant”

OFFERTORY, \*ADVENT DOXOLOGY, and \*PRAYER

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here on earth below; praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CLOSING HYMN # 240 “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

**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!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**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 Emmanuel.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**

**Hail the Sun 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.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

BLESSING Pastor Dave

POSTLUDE