

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC  
Christmas Eve 2024, 8:00 p.m.

Welcome

Prelude

“What Child Is This”

arr. Timothy Albrecht

Call to Worship

Choir: *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Singing:* **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

All: **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government  
will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!”** *Isaiah 9:6*

*Singing:* **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!  
Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

Pastor: And the word became flesh and lived among us;

All: **We have seen his glory, glory as of a father’s only son,  
full of grace and truth.**

*John 1:14*

*Singing:* **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

In the quietness, we draw near to the manger where Christ was born. The noise of the world is stilled for a moment. The joy of heaven is heard. We go to Bethlehem and worship the Christ Child. Feel the tenderness of Mary and the patience of Joseph. Sing of the Lord’s birth and rejoice as Christ comes.

*Singing:* **It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

Congregational Prayer

**Giver of gifts, your light breaks through to the world in love and in flesh. Reclaim our hearts and our lives in the birth of Jesus. We admit that we give presents, yet may fail to be present with one another. God, keep us willing and alert, that when you reveal yourself, we may be aware of your presence and receive the renewing and forgiving love that you have for all people. Amen.**

*Singing:* **And ye, beneath life’s crushing load whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!**

Let us remember God’s forgiveness for all as we come and share the good news of the angel who says, “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord.”

*Singing:* **For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

Hebrew Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(pew bible pg. 1072)

Interlude

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

arr. Peter Hunt

Lighting the Advent Candles

Handbell Anthem

“Ukrainian Bell Carol”

arr. Matthew Prins

Christmas Prayer & The 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 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.**

Prayer Response

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Norman Luboff

Gospel Lesson	Luke 2:1-7	(pew bible pg. 1590)
Carol No. 120	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	
Gospel Lesson	Luke 2:8-20	(pew bible pg. 1591)
Anthem	“While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks”	arr. Hal H. Hopson
Reflection		
Anthem	“My Dancing Day”	arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw
Christmas Offering		
Offertory	Flute Sonata II, <i>Larghetto</i> and <i>Andante</i>	Handel

*Singing:* **How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
 So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.  
 No one discerns God’s coming, but in this world of sin,  
 Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.**

Prayer of Dedication

**Thank you, God of love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by the birth of Jesus Christ. May these gifts and our lives represent a new spirit of joyous sharing of your love for all people. Amen.**

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Tonight is the night we celebrate the opening of the most precious gift of the presence we know - the birth of the Christ Child, the Light of the World. As we light our candles, we open our hearts to becoming part of the gift of light in the world. Like the choice the shepherds faced, will we live in the shadows of fear, or will we dare to run to the manger to know and believe the Good News of new possibility for all who need it most?**

Carol No. 138 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

The Lighting of the Candles

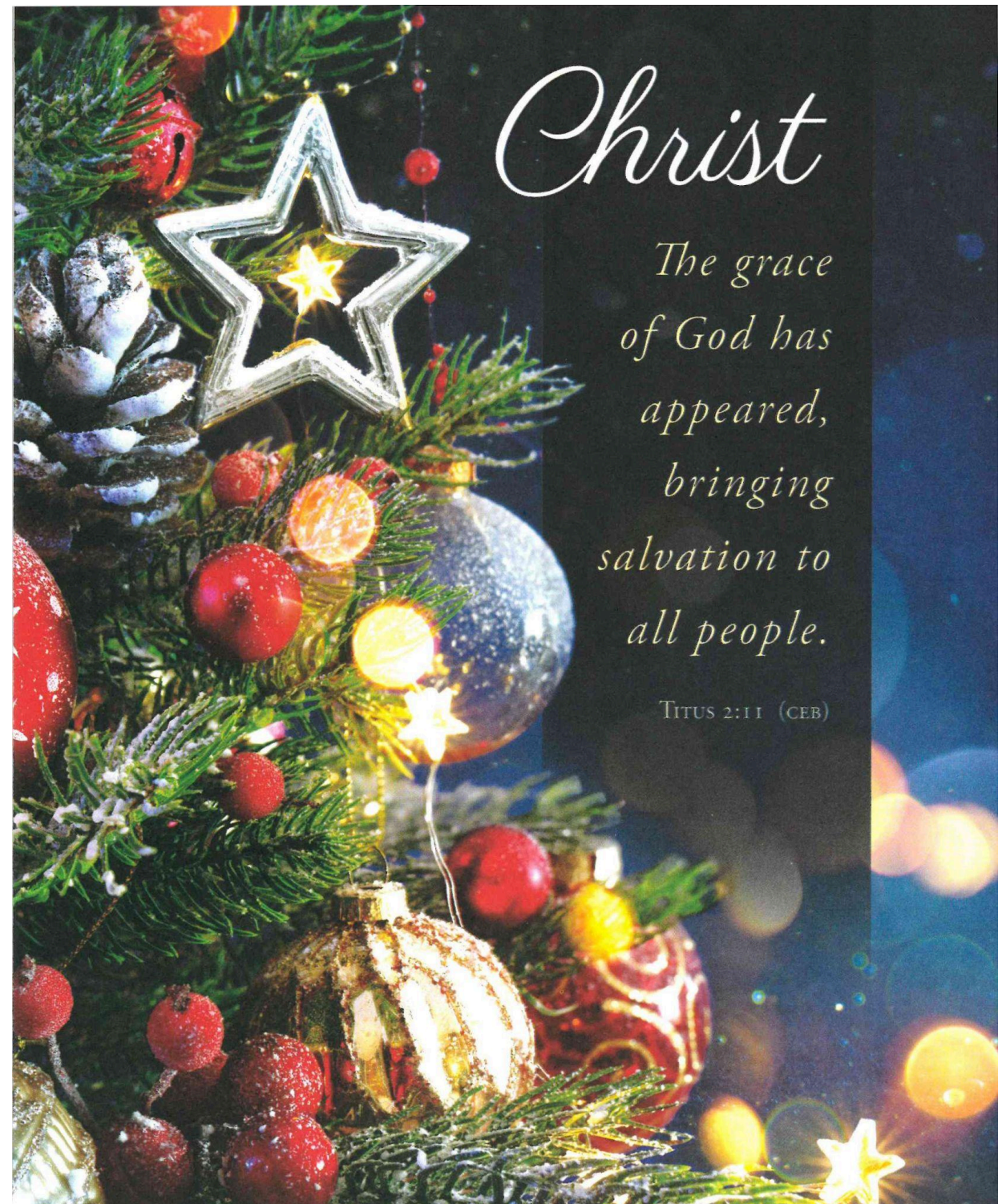
Tolling of the Bell

Blessing

Postlude “The March of the Magi” Sharon Elery Rogers

***A VERY BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!***

*Please place the candles in the basket by the door as you leave.*



This evening's service is led by the Rev. Bernard C. Hinckley,  
Pastor of the Trinitarian Congregational Church.

Participating in tonight's service:

Organist: Ann Sears	Celtic Harp: Peter Hunt
Choir and Bell Choir Director: Kristen Bressler	Flute: Melanie Stewart Tolling of the Bell: Colin Vest

### **Flower & Food Donation Dedications:**

Merry Christmas to all our family & friends at TCC from Kurt & Karen Bischoff	Merry Christmas from the Kollett family In memory of Tom Zommer from Sandy Zommer
In loving memory of our Mom and in honor of our Dad from Lynne, Mark, and Melanie Haskins	In gratitude to TCC's awesome musicians from Kristen Bressler

### **Ways to Give:**

- Place cash or check in the offering plate when it is passed to you.
- Give online via our TCC website: [www.tccnorton.org/giving](http://www.tccnorton.org/giving)
- Use your mobile device by downloading the free Vanco Mobile app.



10% of tonight's offering will help retired clergy and their spouses  
by supplementing pensions and health insurance.

### **TCC News and Events:**

Please subscribe to our newsletter: [www.tccnorton.org/contact-us/newsletter/](http://www.tccnorton.org/contact-us/newsletter/)

*Please place the candles in the basket by the door as you leave.*

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