

Imagine the Impossible



*Nativity of
Our Lord*

Christmas Eve
11:00 pm
December 24, 2018



trinity | camp hill
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church! Please sign the red Worship Witness booklet to record your attendance with us this day, and indicate how many are communing. Then pass the booklet to the worshipers beside you in your row. If you are a guest, name tags are available for you to wear---we would be delighted to greet you by name. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from an usher.

about today's service

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

P: Presiding Minister A: Assisting Minister L: Lector C: Congregation

✝ Gathering ✝

Preludes: "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"
"Ave Maria"

Adult Bells; Marcus Smolensky, violin

arr. Judy Phillips
arr. Jane McFadden

Welcome

[Stand]

P: The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather, we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, wonderful counselor,

C: We confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

P: God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn No. 289: Angels We Have Heard on High

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

Canticle of Praise No 270: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (1st Stanza only)

Opening Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

[Sit]

“For unto you is born a **Savior**, who is Christ, the Lord”

First Reading:

Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: “We Shall Light a Thousand Candles”

David Rasbach

*We shall light a thousand candles dispelling the night with a glorious morn;
we shall sing a thousand carols proclaiming our wonderful Savior is born.
Tell it far and tell it near, speak of the love he gave us; every nation needs to hear:
Jesus was born to save us! Go into the blinding night, sing of this great salvation,
take the glorious gospel light to every tongue and nation.*

Chancel Choir

Second Reading:

Matthew 1:18-21

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a

righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol No. 272: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is **Christ**, the Lord"

Third Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "Pavane for a Silent Night"

Maurice Ravel/arr. Liebergen

*On a silent, starry night, Christus natus est. (Christ is born)
All is calm and all is bright, Son of God and love $\bar{\text{L}}$ pure light,
born in Bethlehem tonight, Christus natus est.
Born in Bethlehem tonight, holy Child divine.
Born a Child and yet a King, hear the heavenly angels sing
joyful tidings bring: Christus natus est.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the highest)

He is born, Emmanuel, God on earth to dwell.

He is born, the holy Child, the infant mild.

Born in Bethlehem, Son of God and son of man.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! On a silent, starry night, Christus natus est. Alleluia!

Chancel Choir; Kim Hannigan, clarinet

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol No. 294: In the Bleak Midwinter

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the **Lord**"

Fifth Reading:

Isaiah 6:1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed

and your sin is blotted out.”⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: “Prayer for Christmas” Humperdinck/arr. Schram

(based on *Evening Prayer*)

*Precious Baby, as You sleep, loving angels watch do keep.
Through the cold night, guarding, in their white robes sparkling.
Worshipping, they surround You, fold their wings around You.
Some Your manger cover, other angels hover,
filling up the starry skies and singing heavenly lullabies.
Precious Baby, rest Your head. By Your tiny manger bed,
searching souls are kneeling, hurting hearts are healing,
in Your presence finding God with us abiding.
Bring us peace, we pray, Lord, strength for every day, Lord;
show the way to heaven's door, to live with You forevermore. Amen.*

Chancel Choir and instrumentalists

Sixth Reading:

Luke 1:26-35

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Stand]

Carol 295: Of the Father's Love Begotten (Verses 1 and 5)

[Sit]

Homily: "Imagine the Impossible"

Pastor Jack M. Horner

Anthem: O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam/arr. Hopson

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine!
Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother,
and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim!*
Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists

[Stand]

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

Each petition ends:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

[Sit]

Offering

Optional giving methods: Use the Give+ app on your mobile device • Use the Giving Station in the Gathering Space • Text an amount to 717-963-2281 (be sure to use a "\$") • Use the "DONATE" button on our website and e-blasts

Worship Witness (Please sign booklet and return to center aisle)

Christmas Trilogy

Karen Buckwalter

1. Blessed Be That Maid Marie
 2. The Cherry Tree Carol
 3. Lo, How a Rose
- Adult Bells; Kierra Heinly, violin

[Stand]

Offertory

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Holy God,

C: your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

Carol No. 281: Silent Night

**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.**

**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!**

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

Blessing

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Extinguish Candles: *Please leave your candle holder in the boxes at the doors.*

Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: Peace to God's people on earth!

P: Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

arr. Diane Bish

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Worship Leaders

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

Readers: Michele Addams, Virginia Hine Ely, Ron Livingston, Nancy Martin, Janis Martinez, Ann McFadden

Book Bearer: Alicia Hahn

Soundboard: Jim Kincaid

Greeters: Steve Kauffman (head greeter), Dave Maser, Michelle Addams

Altar care: Joanne Austin, Vicki Wilken, Tammy Kelley-Snyder, Teresa Sheaffer, Barbara Kriebel, Margaret Parker, Michele Addams, Grace Hoyt

Ushers: H. L. Bishop (head usher)



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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office hours:
monday-friday, 9am-4pm

gathering space receptionist hours:
sunday-thursday, 6pm-9pm

Worship Notes

We welcome and thank the following instrumentalists for participating in our service this evening. Marcus Smolensky, Kierra Heinly, Briana Heinly, Christopher Para, Alison Koch, Duane Botterbusch; Karen Appel, organ; Sara Schmehl, piano.

The flowers in the Nave and Fellowship Hall, the communion elements for all services, and the sanctuary lamp candle, the symbol of God's abiding presence, are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Lawrence K. Thompson, III, by Mrs. L. K. Thompson, III and family.

Poinsettia Pick-up. Any person who has ordered a poinsettia and has chosen to pick it up, please do so after the 10:00 am service on Christmas Day (the building will be closed at 11:30 am). Please do not take the plastic saucers as they are saved for future use. Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the beauty of Trinity at Christmas.

Your many greetings and gifts received by Trinity Church's Staff are most appreciated. We bless you with peace and hope.

2018 contributions of offerings or special gifts must be received in the office by Monday morning, December 31, in order to be credited to your 2018 giving statements.

CHRIST 
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!

Staff

Lead Pastor – The Reverend Dr. Jack M. Horner
Ministry Director for Parish Life – The Reverend John H. Brock
Ministry Director for Engagement – The Reverend Elizabeth E. Frey
Director for Mission Advancement – The Reverend Dr. Guy S. Edmiston, Jr.
Ministry Director for Music - H. Timothy Koch
Director of Youth and Student Ministries – Peter A. Fox
Director of Contemporary Music – Debra D. Wilson
Director of Faith Formation – Kelly C. Falck
Coordinator of Children's Ministry – Danelle Andrews
Director of Children's Music – Amy L. Koch
Director of Preschool – Heather F. Rose
Ministry Director for Communications – Stephanie G. Maurer
Director of Administration – Steven J. Kauffman
Director for Finance – Paul A. Hensel
Facilities Manager/Lead Sexton – Erich Sprowls
Administrative Assistant for Ministry – Thomas A. Notestine
Sunday Morning Receptionist – Criss Floray
Evening Receptionists – Lori Anne McBride, Beth Hinkle
Sextons – Russell Brown, Jordan Gummo

Congregation Council Members

Dave Maser – <i>President</i>	Mike Finio	Barbara Kriebel
Dan Drury – <i>Vice-President</i>	Keith Huntzinger	Mike Schwalm
Ellen Ney – <i>Secretary</i>	Jay Killian	Anne Stafford
Jon Andrews		Charles Suhr

Administrative Committee Chairs

Administration & Personnel – Mike Finio	Finance – Keith Huntzinger
Property – Charles Suhr	Strategic Planning – Bob Frymoyer

Ministry Team Facilitators

Arts – Mary Haar	Parish Ministry – Donna Sprowls
Community Outreach Ministries – Mitzi Jones	Publicity and Comm. – Danelle Andrews
Education – Kelly MacConnell	Stewardship – Dave Maser
Fellowship – Kathy Holmes	Worship – Jane Killian
IT/AV – Jonathan Lobaugh	Youth – Rob Reed
Missions – Mary Ellen Hettinger	

A message from the pastors and staff of Trinity Lutheran Church

We wish you a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. It's a wonderful time at Trinity, with hundreds of people playing roles—large, small, seen, unseen. To each and every person, we say thank you.

Something to think about: For some folks, this season of joy is tempered by hurt, loss, or sadness. Remember to reach out to those in need. Your greatest gift will be a visit, a listening ear, a prayer.



Thanks for being here. Come back often. There's always something going on. See below.

Regular Worship Times in 2019

Sunday Traditional 8:30 and 11:00 am • Sunday Contemporary 8:30 and 11:00 am
Saturday 5:30 pm • Thursday spoken service 6:30 pm • Friday prayer service 12 noon
Healing service monthly, third Sunday, 12:30 pm

☆ **Everyone is welcome at Trinity.** Families, singles. All walks of life.

☆ **Kids can come to any service.** Or you can use our Sunday nursery for infants through age 5.

☆ **Take advantage of our Faith Connection opportunities** for infants through elders.

☆ Teens and pre-teens love our **active Youth Group.**

☆ **Musically inclined?** Find opportunities for everyone: vocal and bell choirs, instrumentalists, praise band.

☆ **Serve our neighbors at home and abroad.** Prayer shawls, quilts, mission trips, prison ministry, much more.

☆ **Serve at Trinity.** Usher, greet, read, give communion, help in kitchen or office, visit homebound folks, more.

☆ **Connect with others.** Enjoy meals, concerts, plays, walk/run group, all kinds of fellowship.



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United and empowered to worship, connect, serve.