

**Trinity United
Church
of Christ**
**Third Sunday of
Advent**
December 12, 2021
10:45 a.m.
In-Person Worship
FB Live Streaming

“The Greatest Gift”

The Mission of Trinity United Church of Christ:
*We exist to Love people where they are and
encourage them to grow in their relationship
with Jesus Christ.*

WE GATHER

*During this worship, we encourage you to know and to remember that you have created a **Quiet Meditative Space**, that this is a **Safe and Loving Place**, a “**Sanctuary**” for worship, praise, and reflection; and to remember that **‘No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life’s Journey, You are Welcome Here!***

Prelude: Instrumental Music Performed by Cammeron Williams

Welcome and Announcements – Sue Myers

Gathering Music – Music by Cammeron
Instrumental music performed by Cammeron Williams

***Call to Worship**

Sue Myers

One: Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God’s works.

All: Sing praises to the ends of the earth.

One: Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,

**All: for great is the Holy One in our midst,
blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.**

Opening Prayer

Pastor Jessica

(by John Birch, faithandworship.com)

One: Advent God,
we journey with you,
to Bethlehem’s stable
and a new-born King,
ears attuned
to the song of angels,
eyes alert
for Bethlehem’s star.

**All: Forgive us
if on our journey
if we are distracted
by the tempting offers
of this world.**

One: Keep our hearts aflame
with the hope
of Christmas,
and the promise
of a Savior.

All: Amen

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sue Myers and family

Reader 1: Advent is a time of waiting.
We wait in hope.
(Light first candle)

Reader 2: We wait in peace.
(Light second candle)

Reader 1: As we wait, we are filled with joy--not because our lives are perfect, not because we don't have any struggles, but because we find our strength in God, the God of our salvation. We are joyful because God send God's son, Jesus Christ, into this world so we may be saved.

Reader 2: Today, we light the candle of joy. As we wait, let us be people of joy.
(Light pink candle of joy)

Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Vs. 3

A Time for Discovery

Children may come forward

Children's Church

Pastor: Now receive the blessing from your church family who loves you:

Congregation: The Lord be with you...

Children: And also, with you.

Children are invited to go to Christian Education Classroom

WE PROCLAIM

First Reading: Deuteronomy 15:7-11 Sue Myers

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:8-20 Pastor Jessica

One: For the Word of God in Scripture
For the Word of God among us
For the Word of God within us

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon: "Christmas Present" Pastor Jessica

Special Music: "Psalm 62 (Paul Zach)"

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory: *Please remember to send in your offering by mail, or give to our on-line giving button on the website*
[\(<https://www.trinityuccmanchester.org>\)](https://www.trinityuccmanchester.org).

***Doxology as a Reading**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Hymn: "Not an Ordinary Christmas"

WE GO FORTH

***Carrying the Light into the World**

***Benediction**

***Postlude:**

Instrumental music performed by Cammeron Williams

Worship Notes and Resources:

The music in our worship today is reproduced via our CCLI License number: [2809801](#)

Leadership

Jessica Townsley	Pastor
Cammeron Williams	Director of Music
Sue Myers	Lay Reader
MB Brainerd	Worship Committee
Deb Persinger	
Sandy Sanders	

Trinity UCC Covid Protocol

With Covid-19 cases on the rise, primarily due to the new Delta variant, in order to protect the most vulnerable among us, including children who cannot yet be vaccinated and those who are immunocompromised, we strongly urge everyone to **wear a mask inside the building at all times**. We appreciate everyone's understanding, and thank you, as we try to safely navigate through these uncertain and unpredictable times due to this pandemic.

ANNOUCEMENTS

Worship Today

Budget Information:

Amount needed from all sources each week to meet our budget: \$2,436.00.

Giving for last week: General: \$1,440.00

Building Fund/Fundraising: \$1,260.00 Attendance: 32

Please give in the various ways we offer for you to give your financial offerings to Trinity. We are lagging in our giving and hope that we can re-gain the generous level of giving we are accustomed to receiving.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Prayers are needed for our country at this difficult time and all those in need.

Submission Dates for Bulletins/Newsletter

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday

January Newsletters - Monday, December 13

Announcement:

Join Pastor Jessica on "Facebook LIVE" each **Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m.** for a short devotional or thought for the day and prayer time together.

Worship at Trinity UCC for the Next Week:

December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10:45 a.m.

Scripture: Romans 8:4-8; Matthew 11:29-30

Theme: The Hope of Christmas Future

Meeting Dates Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, January 5, @ 7pm

Worship Comm – Tuesday, January 18, @ 6pm

PPR – January 26, @ 7pm

2022 BUDGET MEETING TODAY

We will be holding a brief congregational meeting on **Sunday, 12/12/21**, immediately following the church service to vote on the 2022 financial budget.



Redemption of Scrooge Worship Series

Beginning November 28, join us each Sunday during Advent as we journey through the Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. We will discuss its how themes from this beloved Christmas story intersect with our own holy scriptures.

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

With the holidays approaching, what better time to support Trinity UCC! Use gift cards to make your on-line holiday purchases safer! Plus buy gift cards to give as presents to those that are hard-to-buy-for. With almost 300 retailers you shouldn't have a problem finding what you want.

For the holiday season we will be placing gift card orders on **12/12**.

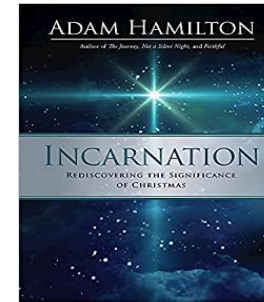
If you haven't participated in the program and would like more information please contact Sue Myers, 443-375-6788, wsmdem@comcast.net

Food Bags for Backpacks 2021-2022 School Year

Trinity UCC has restarted our Food Bags for Backpacks donation program for Manchester Elementary School. Trying to be as careful as possible, we will once again just ask for Monetary Donations. Please mark "Food Bags" on any checks or giving envelopes that you wish to go to this program. Thank you, your support is greatly appreciated.

A Time for Discovery: Christmas Around the World

Join us each Sunday in Advent for a very special "Time for Discovery." Pastor Jessica will offer a special moment in worship during which we will talk briefly about how children in other countries celebrate Christmas! During this time, we will have a special gift for each of our children to mark the Advent and Christmas seasons. You don't want to miss it!



Advent Study: *Incarnation* by Adam Hamilton

Join us Pastor Jessica on Zoom **December 16th** for a brief Advent study of *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*. We will gather at 7pm for three Thursdays to watch a short video and engage in discussion around the themes of the incarnation. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Jessica by e-mail or phone. A book is not necessary, but can be ordered if you prefer to follow along.

The Christmas Fund Offering- December 19th

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!



Longest Night at Trinity UCC

The Longest Night worship service (some churches call it Blue Christmas) originated years ago in churches around the world. The purpose of the service is to acknowledge our need for healing and hope when grief, illness and discord are present in our lives.

This simple service which will be held on Tuesday, **December 21 at 6:30 pm via Zoom**. Pastor Jessica will lead a meaningful service which will include silence, quiet music, and words to ponder. Maybe you won't attend for yourself alone, but will bring a friend with you as well? An email with the Zoom link will be e-mailed prior to the 21st.

Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

Pastor: The Rev. Jessica Townsley Cell: 240-285-9357

E-mail: Jessica Townsley (pastortucc@comcast.net)

Director of Music: Cammeron Williams Cell: 410-235-5960

E-mail: cammeron.williams86@gmail.com

Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net

Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Facebook – www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

Consistory President – Robert Miller

Vice President – Doug Rhoten

Secretary – Karen Haines

Treasurer – Sue Myers

Assistant Treasurer – Debra Miller

