



**Trinity United Church
of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Love
Sanctuary: Room for All
December 21, 2025
10:30 a.m.**

In-Person Worship FB Live Streaming

**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.***

Meditation of the Week: "All guests who arrive should be received as Christ, for he himself will say, 'I was a stranger and you took me in.'" ~ Saint Benedict of Nursia~

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Gathering

Feel the Spirit of the community. Worship is a time of both shared community and private conversation with God. Let us all come to this sacred space to enjoy both the loving fellowship of our common faith and the prayerful quiet that will allow us all to draw closer to God.

Prelude: Instrumental Music

Words of Welcome Pastor Katie

Announcements, Joys and Concerns Pastor Katie

***Call to Community**

Shana Clark

One: Come, people of God, bring your worries and your weariness.

Many: We come, seeking sanctuary in God's promise of love.

One: When life feels impossible and choices feel few, God is still at work..

Many: God's Spirit opens the way where we see no way.

One: This is a place for love to be born anew.

Many: Come, Emmanuel, and make room for our love.

Prayer of Presence

All: God of love, you enter our lives when we least expect it. You shine light into impossible places and speak life where we only see endings. Teach us to wait with patience, to trust with courage, and to act when your Spirit calls. Fill us with your love and send us to be bearers of hope in the world. It is in the name of the One who is our love, we pray. Amen

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

Many: And also with you

Pass a sign of God's Peace to one another.

***Opening Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

#43 NCH

Lighting of the Advent Candles ~ The Haines Family

One: Today, we light the candle of Love. God makes room in impossible places, filling the world with new possibilities.

All: In Christ, love takes flesh and dwells among us.

One: As we light this candle, we celebrate the love that knows no bounds.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Love Incarnate into our hearts!

(Light the four candles)

Choral Response: "Sanctuary" #482 (Worship & Rejoice)
(sing through 2x)

~silence is kept~

Growing Disciples

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation

The Narrative

The Baptism

One: by what name is your child to be known?

Par. **(Charlotte Michele Creamer).**

One: How did you come to decide on these names?

Par. **(Response/Story).**

One: Little one, born to love,
surrounded by love,
child of the universe,
one with all that lives,
we honor your name, Charlotte Michele Creamer.

Take this name and make it your own.
Live in freedom and fullness
as you travel your journey of life.

And for what do you ask for ?

Par. **We ask that she be baptized
into the faith and family of God's love.**

One: Charlotte Michele Creamer, we welcome you
to this family and this community.

We rejoice that you are here.

Thanksgiving

One: May it be well with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Life is a gift and we celebrate it.

All: May we rejoice in the beauty that we are.

One: Water is a precious commodity...

Water is everything.

Water is life.

Today we claim the joy of water
and the way it sustains and nourishes us.

**All: Let it flow and pour and sprinkle for all people.
That all may know each day the gift of God in water.**

One: The biblical stories of our tradition also talk of the
preciousness of water.

These stories remind us that water
is a blessing and the source and strength of life.

Without it humanity and all that has evolved
could not survive.

So let's give thanks:
for this child,
for this gift of water.
(Silent pause)

We gather believing the sacred is within and about us.

The Baptism

One: Charlotte Michele Creamer, in the touch of this water, the ancient symbol of new life, I baptize you in the name of Life who created you,
Wisdom who knew you first,
Hope by whom you shall be sustained,
and
Love... may you live every day in its embrace. *(Adapt. Gretta Vosper/wwwg)*

All: May it be so.

One: Child of God, may the presence of the Spirit of Love in you
be nurtured and constantly affirmed by
your family,
your friends, and by
your church community.

May the sun and the stars
delight and touch your heart with fire
and so may you find passion to be creative.

May you know God's blessing.

Blessing

**All: May the mystery of God enfold us,
may the wisdom of God uphold us,
may the fragrance of God be around us,
may the brightness of God surround us,
may the wonder of God renew us,
may the loving of God flow through us,
may the peace of God deeply move us,
may the moving of God bring us peace.** *Joy Cowley*

Responses

To parents

One: I invite you now to honor this journey of faith
by making these affirmations:

Will you provide for Charlotte a welcoming home of love and trust,
sharing with her the stories of life – yours, ours –
and the wisdom and faith of those who have gone before us?

Par. We will.

One: Will you help Charlotte grow in her understanding
and appreciation of a broad religious faith?

Par. We will.

One: Will you encourage Charlotte to reach out to others
with love and compassion...
and care for God's good creation?

Par. We will.

To God-parents

One: Will you do everything possible to ensure Charlotte
is nurtured so her faith is open, healthy, and strong?

Gp: We will.

To the Community Gathered

One: Each of us knows the need for support and care
as we share in a journey of faith.

As this family gathers around this font and this water,
symbols of belonging and community,
let us pledge our care for them.

**All: We stand as witnesses to the commitment
this family has made this day.**

**And we pledge ourselves to their support and care
as they discover the ways that the Spirit
unfolds for them. (*Gretta Vosper/wowg*).**

In Solidarity

One: May this newly baptized child be blessed.
May she always know that the Source of all Love
lives and comes to unique expression, in her.

All: May it be so.

One: May this family be blessed.
May they always show their gratitude
for the new life given them
by loving and caring for Charlotte.

All: May it be so.

One: May this gathering of faithful people be blessed.
May we all live in love.
And may we continue to draw encouragement
from the faith which connects our loving
with the sacred mystery we call 'God'.

All: May it be so.

One: This is a day of great celebration for Charlotte and her
family.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Presentation of the Child

Children are dismissed for Children's Church

***Gloria, Gloria (Taizé)'**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16 Shana Clark
The sign of Emmanuel

Second Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Pastor Katie
Our God is near

The Message Visions and Dreams *Pastor Katie*

***Hymn of grace: "Angels From the Realms of Glory"
#126 NCH**

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

Invitation to Generosity

**Choral Response: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #128 NCH
(verse 4)**

***Blessing Our Gifts**

**All: God of love, We bring these gifts in grateful response
for the love that surrounds us. Use what we offer to turn
despair into possibility and to bring your light into the
darkest corners. May our giving be a witness that your
promises are true and that love still has a home in this
world. It is in the name of the One whose love descends
into our lives, we pray. Amen.**

Meditation with Ashby

The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"
#129 NCH**

MOVING TOWARDS PEACE ON EARTH!

***A Loving Benediction**

One: Be people of love.

See, feel, and share love!

Be people of love.

Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet.

Share love by loving those you see regularly. Start by loving your community.

Share love by loving those you do not know. How do your actions affect the rest of God's creation?

Share love by praying for our world.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share love, joy, peace, and hope with those you meet.

All: Amen.

***Carrying the Light into the World**

Prelude to Service: Instrumental music

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

Worship Notes and Resources

Adapted from

<https://breakthroughseries.org/series/sanctuary>,

benedictions for Advent — LiturgyLink

The music in our worship is reproduced via our One License number: A-725765.

Leadership

Katie Penick

Pastor

Hannah Matthews

Director of Music

Shana Clark/Sylvia Calabrese

Lay Readers

Deb Persinger

Worship Committee

Sandy Sanders

Hannah Matthews

MB Brainerd

Christmas Offering Today

**Please join us downstairs for
Fellowship following Worship today!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for next week:

Christmas Eve. 6:30 p.m.

Sanctuary at the Manger: Mary

First Lesson Luke 1:26-35 The Story of Mary

Sanctuary at the Manger: Joseph

Second Lesson Matthew 1:18-21 *The Story of Joseph*

Sanctuary at the Manger: The Star

Third Lesson Matthew 2:1-2, 7-10 The Story of the Star

Sanctuary at the Manger: The Angels

Fourth Lesson Luke 2:8-14 The Story of the Angels

Sanctuary at the Manger: the Christ Child

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:1-7 The Story of Jesus' Birth

Message

Scrip Gift Cards

Please consider taking part in this program.

Orders go in the 1st Sunday of the month.

See Sue Myers for more information, 443-375-6788 or

wsmdem@comcast.net

Submission Dates for Bulletins/Newsletter

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday

January Newsletters - Monday, December 29

Meeting Dates by Zoom

Consistory – January 7 @ 6 pm

Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month @ 3:30.

Pastor Katie Sabbath Day will be on Fridays! She will not be available on that day. If there is an emergency text, her @ 240-418-8028

Please pick up your 2026 envelopes today!

Budget Information:

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

Church was canceled for Dec. 14th.

Giving for Last Week: \$ Attendance:

Care Fund/Building: \$35.00

We offer various ways to give – cash, checks, or on-line at our website www.trinityuccmanchester.org. Your generous giving allows us to continue our ministries.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns

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

Prayer requests:

Joanna Garber

Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity

Shannon Gettman, daughter of Diane

Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie

Sandy Hall, sister of Deb Miller

Jerry Krebs, friend of Deb Persinger

Michael Kulp

Ash Van Nuys

Dewey Parks

Jennifer Penick

Gordon Persinger

George Pietsch

Marc Pulido

Leah, friend of Donna Alban

Jean Simmons

Becky Smith, niece of Karen Price

Dan and Terry Smith

Randy Smith

Kathleen Stevens

Gina Tollini

Ronnie Williams

Nora Renee Winters

Shirley Wood

Prayers are needed for the family of Norman Greenholtz, Norman passed away Wednesday Dec. 10th.

Coat Drive

Throughout the winter months, we will have a designated box in the lower narthex to collect clean, gently used winter coats. The coats will be taken to NESAP on a weekly basis. All sizes, children and adults are welcomed. Please drop your donation(s) in the box. Please contact Sandy Sanders (443)974-6723 if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your donation(s)!

Reverse Advent Calendar – sharing our blessings with others. During the month of December, we will be collecting nonperishable food items for NESAP's Food Pantry. See the calendar (found in the narthex) for suggestions of items to donate each day during the month. The donations will be blessed on the first Sunday in January. Boxes are available in the social hall for your use.

Advent Bible Study

The light of the world: a guide to advent
Each **Tuesday at 6pm** through the 23rd.

Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

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Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

President – Sandy Sanders

Vice President – Hannah Matthews

Secretary – Shana Clark

Treasurer – Sue Myers

