

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

## *Blue Christmas: A Service of Healing and Wholeness*

6:30 PM Worship Service • December 16, 2024



*The intention of the Blue Christmas service is to allow all who are down, mourning a loss, uncertain about the world around them, or simply struggling for any reason to engage in those feelings through prayer and reflection. We hope this will be a deeply meaningful way of connecting with God and owning these feelings.*

**Welcome members and guests** to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. Please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information.

**The nursery is available**, however since there are no attendants at this time, feel free to use it as needed.

**Trinity offers an induction loop** for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T." If you are unsure if your hearing aid is compatible, please contact your audiologist.



## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607  
(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>  
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**REV. TINA MELUSKY** – Pastor ([tina.melusky@gmail.com](mailto:tina.melusky@gmail.com))

**GEOFFREY BELL** – Director of Music Ministries ([music@trinitynn.org](mailto:music@trinitynn.org))

**SHARON MATHISON** – Administrative Assistant ([admin@trinitynn.org](mailto:admin@trinitynn.org))

**CAROL BESSOM** – Treasurer ([cbessom@trinitynn.com](mailto:cbessom@trinitynn.com))

**THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN** – Ministers of the Word

**FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS:** <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>

**TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE:** <http://trinitynn.org>

### PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm;

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in.

**Pastor's Cell:** (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,  
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**-WE GATHER-***The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, + and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

We praise you, O God, for you are the Father of mercies and the Mother of all consolation. You comfort and care for us.

**We confess the way we feel now. Our hearts feel heavy within us; we are weighed down with the loss of loved ones, the loss of opportunities, the shifting of hopes and dreams. As many people eagerly wait for Jesus' birth, it's hard for us to lift up our hearts. As many plan to celebrate and sing with joy, we often find the days seem gray and our tongues cannot rejoice. Help us. Embrace us. Heal us. You, who know the grief of the world, meet each of us in our aching hearts. Please hold us close until the days dawn a bit brighter and we find we can walk in delight once more.**

God knows the emptiness we sometimes feel. God knows the feelings of abandonment, anger, loneliness, and relief we sometimes feel, too. God knows us from the depths of our hearts, and God sits with each one of us as we learn to be whole people once more. Be assured of God's love and compassion.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*As the Dark Awaits the Dawn*

ELW 261

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**God of light and life, in the midst of a busy season when so many around us are making plans for the birthday of Jesus, we come listening for your voice and hoping for your comforting grace. Draw near us as we draw near to you.**

**We pray in Jesus' name: Amen.**

**-WE HEAR WORDS OF HEARTBREAK –**

**VERSE OF PREPARATION** (*all singing*)

**O Come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**SCRIPTURE**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? Oh my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find not rest...I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast... (Psalm 22:1-2,14)

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick...For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O, that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! (Jeremiah 8:18,21-9:1)

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. (John 11:32-35)

**RESPONSE LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE**

We light this candle to remember those who are captive to darkness. (The first candle is lit.) For those lost in the night of addiction, depression, anxiety, or unexpected grief, we pray to God, who guided the Israelites through the darkness with a pillar of fire:

**Disperse the gloomy clouds of night.**

We light this candle to remember those who have died, and those who mourn the dead. (The second candle is lit.) The shadow of death can seem impenetrably dark during these long nights. We pray to God, whose first act in creation was to call light from darkness:

**Death's dark shadow put to flight.**

We light this candle to remember those who are alone. (The third candle is lit.) We remember those who isolated from loved ones; far from home; wandering down the wrong path; or convinced that God is unconcerned with their suffering. We pray to God, who is like the woman who lit a lantern to search all night for one lost coin:

**Refresh the hearts that long for you.**

We light this candle to remember those who are battling illness. (The fourth candle is lit.) We lift up those who suffer the pain, indignity, and bewilderment that accompany a broken body. For all who desire to be returned to wholeness, we pray to God, who lit the night sky with a star to guide three magi to the healing Christ:

**Restore the broken: make us new.**

We light this candle to remember those who feel that hardship will overwhelm them. (The fifth candle is lit.) For the poor, the persecuted, the hungry, and the homeless, we pray to God, who walked with three men through the consuming flames of a fiery furnace:

**In strength and beauty come and stay.**

We light this candle to remember those affected by war. (The sixth candle is lit.) For soldiers; for civilians in war-torn nations; for families who mourn the loss of loved ones to violent conflict. We pray to God, with eyes of blazing fire, who promises a vision of peace:

**Teach us your will and guide our way.**

## -WE HEAR WORDS OF HOPE-

### VERSE OF PREPARATION

**The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.**

**Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: "Come quickly, King of kings."**

### SCRIPTURE

In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:2-4)

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:5)

I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world! (John 16:33)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' (Revelation 21:1-5)

### RESPONSE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

HYMN DURING ANOINTING

*Wait for the Lord*

ELW 262

**-WE ARE SENT-**

**LORICA OF ST. PATRICK**

I arise today

**Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity**

**Through belief in the threeness**

**Through confession of the Oneness**

**Towards the creator.**

I arise today

**Through God's strength to pilot me:**

**God's might to uphold me,**

**God's wisdom to guide me**

**God's eye to look before me,**

**God's ear to hear me,**

**God's word to speak for me,**

**God's hand to guard me,**

**God's way to lie before me,**

**God's host to secure me.**

I arise today

**Through the strength of Christ with his baptism,**

**Through the strength of his crucifixion with his burial,**

**Through the strength of his resurrection with his ascension**

**Through the strength of his descent for the Judgment of doom.**

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,

**Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,**

Christ on my right, Christ on my left

**Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise**

Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,

**Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,**

Christ in every eye that sees me,

**Christ in every ear that hears me.**

Salvation is of the Lord

**Salvation is of the Lord**

Salvation is of Christ

**May thy salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

## **SENDING HYMN**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

ELW 282

## **DISMISAL**

Go forth in the name of the promised Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*Carol of the Bells*

arr. Mark Hayes

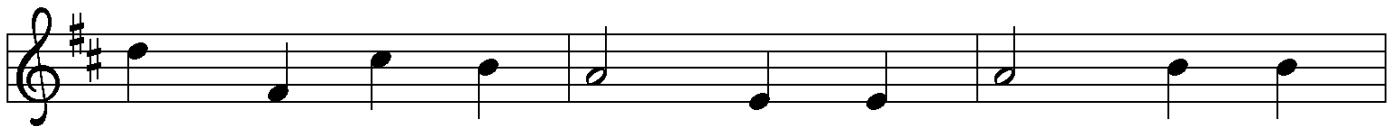




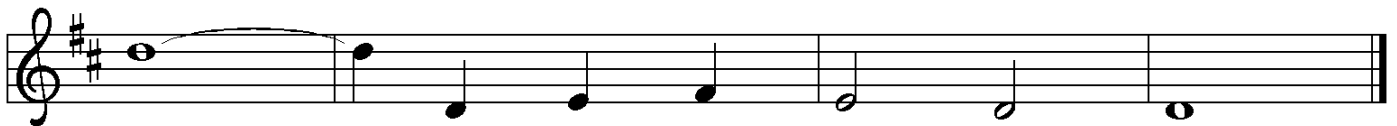
1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,  
 2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour  
 3 As the moon re - flects the sun  
 4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of  
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to  
 un - til the night's de - crease, may we your  
 en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing  
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and  
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing  
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.  
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.  
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.  
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

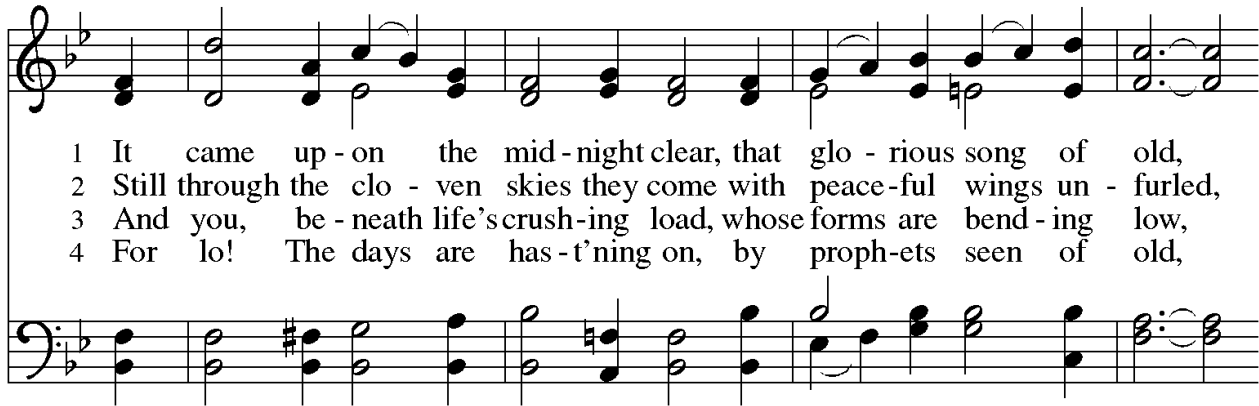
Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

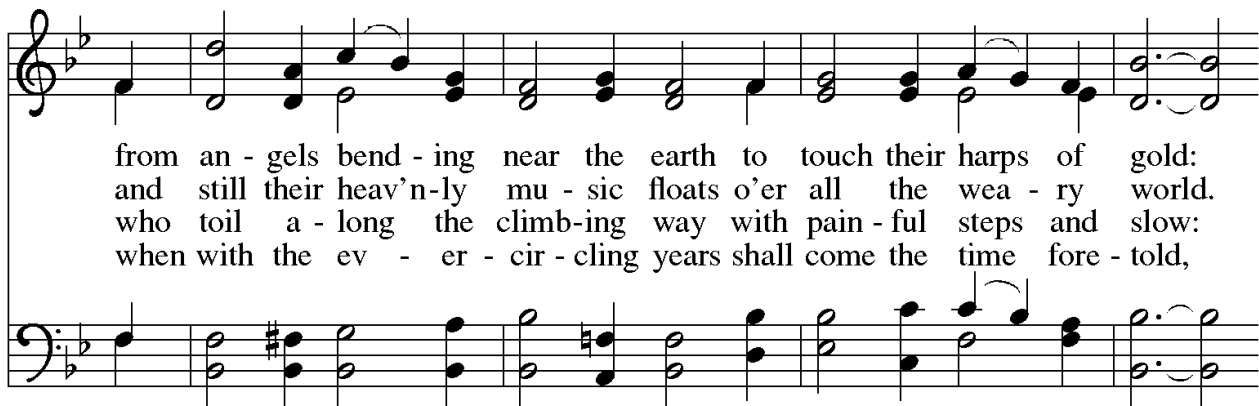
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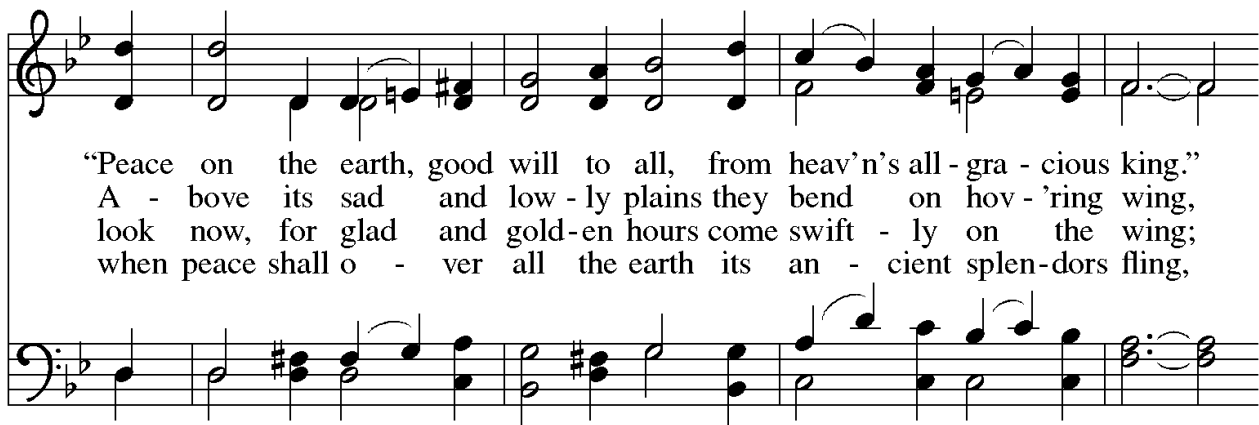
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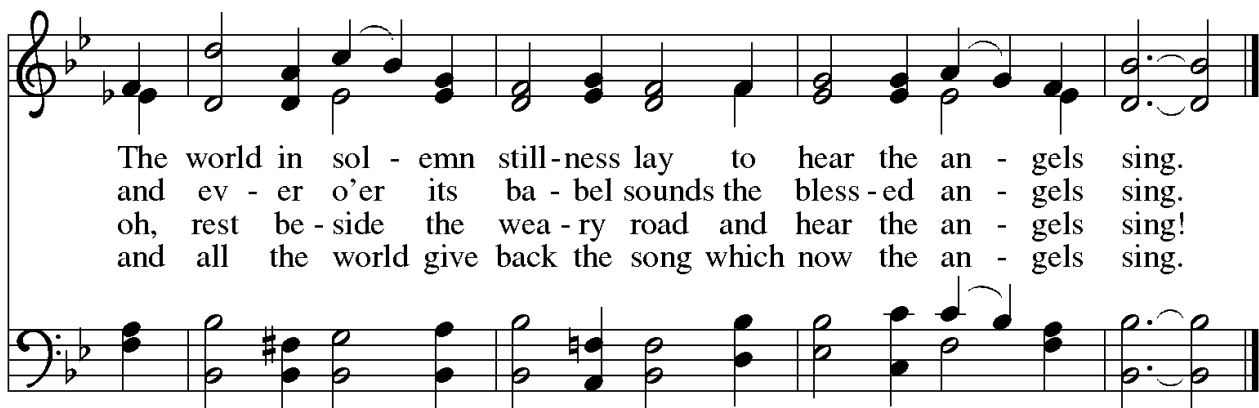
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.