



EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve 2021 – Holy Communion in Trinity Chapel at 10:30 pm

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15 West Church Street • Frederick, MD 21701

www.erucc.org – 301-662-2762

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We welcome all who seek God's peace on this holy night.

†All who are able may stand.

Organ Prelude

Words of Welcome

Pastor Daniel

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer (*in unison*)

“O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!”

(Phillips Brooks, 1867)

The Call to Worship Isaiah 9: 2-7

†**Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

- No. 112

†**Invocation** (*in unison*)

Holy Child, source of smiling joy and eternal hope, look upon us with tender eyes. Bring your gentle light to the hidden courses of our lives; let the mountains tremble, the seas roar and our hearts be open to the angelic chorus. Come, Holy One, show your infant face to us again, echo your name in our hearts and establish peace on earth. On this blessed eve, we praise and magnify your Holy Name. Amen.

†**Carol** *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

- No. 107

The Gospel Story of Jesus' Birth Luke 2:1-14

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

- No. 108

Christmas Message

Pastor Daniel

The Christmas Prayer and 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, for ever. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Communion

(All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward, with those on the right side taking communion first. As soon as a place is available at the chancel railing, you may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the elements. Consume the bread and cup as they are given to you, and place the empty cup in the cup holder before returning to your seat. Please use the quiet time before and after you commune for private prayers, for your own needs and for the needs of others.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(in unison)*

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have received the Christ child and all his gifts. Send us forth with strength and new commitment to show forth your praise and your peace, not only with our lips but in our lives, by offering ourselves in love and service to you and to all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Candle Lighting Ceremony

- a reading from John 1:1-5

(We light our candles by tilting the unlit candle toward the candle giving the flame. Then we push the flame guard up to surround the flame and protect those around us. We may take our lighted candles into the night's darkness to let the Light of Christ shine in our homes and our community.)

†**Carol** *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

- No. 101

†**The Benediction**

Postlude Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

- L. Smith

We are grateful to Alison E. Shafer for lending her musical gifts to this evening's sacred celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Christmas offering is given to meet emergency needs of retired clergy through *The Christmas Fund*. You may place your offering in the plate on the back table. Thank you.

We wish you a BLESSED CHRISTMAS DAY!

Evangelical Reformed Church

Founded 276 years ago by Frederick County's first settlers, this church is firmly rooted in the life of our community and is regarded as a landmark church of the City of Frederick.

We are an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, dedicated to serving God and our neighbors near and far. We are a dynamic and diverse congregation in every way. Sunday is just one of the days in the week when our church is active. Our sanctuary and Community Room host educational, spiritual and recreational programming. Children's voices fill the air, adults gather for Bible study, and we work tirelessly for social justice.

We share space in our hearts and buildings with the community. Each week, hundreds of community members come through our doors. Our church hosts dozens of nonprofit organizations that use our space for little to no cost. We do so because we know the profoundly positive impact this has on Frederick County and the quality of life we want everyone to have.

Worship services take place in our two historic buildings. Trinity Chapel's colonial steeple, recognized for miles around as the oldest of the "clustered spires of Frederick," rests atop the original stone tower built in 1763. The chapel hosts our 8:30 Sunday morning communion service and our Christian Education classes. The worship hour at 10:30 takes place in the large Greek Revival church built in 1848.

Information about Evangelical Reformed Church is available in the literature racks by the church doors. We ask our visitors to sign the blue cards in the pews so we will know of your visit with us, and we invite you to take any pamphlet that may be of interest to you. You can also visit our web page at www.erucc.org where you will find more information about the church and current ministries and programs.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Kelly Esslinger, Bell Choir Director • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr. • Sherry Murray, Nursery

Office Administrator (erucc@erucc.org) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator