

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



*Evangelical Reformed
United Church of Christ*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

*15 West Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701*

December 24, 2022 ~ 7:30 p.m.

**All who are able may stand*

(We are grateful for your presence this evening as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God with us, Emmanuel. We kindly ask that you silence your cell phones and any other things that might beep or chirp. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. This is their expression of joy at the birth of Jesus. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.)

Carol Concert from Trinity Chapel's 10-bell steeple chimes

Words of Welcome ~ Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel

Prelude

He Is Born, the Holy Child ~ (Il est Né, le Divin Enfant) ~ D. Gilliam/M. McCaskill

Coventry Carol ~ English Traditional Carol ~ arr. L. Larson

The Cherry Tree Carol (As Joseph Was A-Walking) ~ Appalachian Carol,

arr. S. Mitchell Wallace/J. Head

Cathy Fronck, trumpet; Jeffrey Baker, trombone

The Prophet Speaks ~ Isaiah 9:2-7 ~ Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***Processional Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Now to our God be Glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Amen, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,

O Jesus, forever be Thy Name adored;

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

***Prayer** (*in unison*)

We praise you God, that in Jesus Christ you have come to us to speak your Word of love and life. Touch us with unearthly joy, like the singing of angels; fill us with wonder, like the eyes of children; teach us to humble ourselves before you, like the worshipping magi. May our journey to the manger be only the beginning of a lifetime of service to Jesus our Christ. Amen.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle ~ Katie Zander and Linda Coyle

Scripture Reading ~ Luke 2:1-7

***Carol**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the Everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven;
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!

Scripture Reading ~ Luke 2:8-14

***Carol**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Scripture Reading ~ Luke 2:15-20

Anthem

Fantasy on Five Christmas Carols ~ arr. Mark Hayes ~ Senior Choir

Christmas Meditation ~ Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel

Christmas Eve Prayer and 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 Christmas Eve Offering for The Christmas Fund

(Meeting emergency needs of the UCC's retired clergy and spouses)

Offertory Anthem

Go to the Child ~ Poem by Imtiaz Dharker, Music by Simon Hancock ~ Senior Choir

Anthem

O Holy Night ~ A. Adam, arr. C. Courtney ~ Senior Choir

The Gift of the Light

Scripture Readings on Light

A Celebration of the Light ~ Candle Lighting

(Light your candle by tilting it toward the candle giving the flame, then push the flame guard up to surround the flame and protect those nearby.)

***Carol**

Silent Night, Holy 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! Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing: Alleluia! Hail the King!
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Guiding Star, lend thy light!
See the eastern wise men bring gifts and homage to our King!
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light!
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King!
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

***The Christmas Benediction**

***Recessional Carol**

Joy to the World

(We may take our lighted candles out into the night's darkness so that the Light of Christ will shine in our homes and communities.)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns; Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

***Postlude**

March of the Three Kings ~ Provençal Carol, arr. S. Mitchell – Wallace/J. Head
Cathy Fronck, trumpet; Jeffrey Baker, trombone

Welcome to all who seek the love of God on this sacred night.

May the peace of Christ be with us all this blessed Christmas Eve!

We are grateful to all who have given of themselves to inspire our devotion on this beautiful evening. We are especially grateful to the members and directors of our choirs, and our deacons and greeters. We also offer our heartfelt thanks to our organist Alison E. Shafer; our trombonist Jeffrey Baker and trumpeter Cathy Fronck. We thank them all for their devotion and generosity!

Christmas Fund Offering

For over a century, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. The Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in kindheartedness to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. We will receive this offering on Christmas Eve. Look for purple envelopes in the pews.

About Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Founded 277 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 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.

Services and activities 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 a.m. Sunday morning communion service and our children's Christian Education classes. The worship hour at 10:30 a.m. takes place in the large Greek Revival church built in 1848.

You can support the work of ERUCC in our community by sharing a donation in the plates at the rear of the sanctuary or via our on-line giving option at www.erucc.org.

Information about Evangelical Reformed Church is available in the literature racks by the church doors. We ask our visitors to sign the blue welcome cards in the pews and return it to a greeter 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.

Sunday Schedule

8:30-9:15 a.m. ~ Worship with Communion & Healing Prayer ~ Trinity Chapel

9:30-10:15 a.m. ~ Sunday School classes for all ages

10:30-11:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service ~ Main Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. ~ Coffee & Conversation

Trained paid nursery attendant for children up to age 4.

ERUCC Ministers and Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Senior Pastor*
bkdaniel@erucc.org

The Rev. Frederick Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation and Parish Life*
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Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children and Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs and Children's Music*

Sherry Murray ~ *Nursery Attendant*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Specialist*

Contact Us

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