



Christmas Eve Morning Service - B
24 December, 2023

“Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."” *2 Samuel 7:1,2*

Welcome and Announcements

- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday (Closed on Holidays, 25, 26 December 2023 and 1 January 2024)

In person Sunday School is the 2nd and last Sunday of each month

We are delighted to receive a gift of music - Maryn and Arlene Hunter.

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations.

Christmas Services - Mark the following services on your calendars!

December 24th – Children’s Service – 4:30 p.m.

December 24th – Lessons and Carols – 7:30 p.m.

December 24th – Communion – 10:30 p.m.

Social Time After Church – Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Individuals or groups are invited to sign-up.

Introit 84 "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word" vs. 1

Advent Liturgy Fourth Sunday in Advent **Love**

The prophets call and the psalmists sing to announce that God is love.

“For the mountain may depart and the hills may be moved, but my steadfast love shall never depart from you...and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you.” (Isaiah 54)

“Give thanks to the LORD, who is good...give thanks to the Lord of lords, whose steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 136)

From the mystery of God’s love came our creation and we are nurtured daily by it. The power of God’s love is transformative; because we have received God’s love, we cannot remain the same. Love means seeking the best for others. Love is compassion for all creation. Love speaks the truth with kindness. Love is the way of seeing others as God sees them.

Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

Jesus Christ is the love of God come into the world.

We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

We light this candle to burn for love.

Introit 84 "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word" vs. 4

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our

neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word.

And the Word was with God and the Word was God.

In the Word was light.

And the light was the life of all people.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

So let us worship God in wonder and in love, trusting in God's light.

Opening Prayer

Lord,

You are with us wherever we go:

you are our God and the Rock of our salvation.

You come to us each day and always.

Open our eyes to your presence,

open our hearts to your love,

open our minds to your indwelling;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 38 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain -

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly
song?

Refrain -

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain -

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain -

Prayer of Confession

**God of grace and truth,
In Christ you offer us the gift of yourself,
We are preoccupied with presents under the tree.
You came to us in flesh and blood,
We miss you in the humans right beside us.
You shine in the world,
We dwell on the darkness in the daily news.
Forgive us.
Renew our hope and our trust in you
as you reach out to us from the manger.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Walk in the assurance of God's grace and forgiveness. Be people of light and forgive one another.

The Peace

God is able to strengthen you and keep you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Scripture 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89 (VU804); Luke 1:26-38

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

Psalm 89 (VU804) (Tune 659)

My song forever shall record
your tender mercies, O my God,
your faithfulness will I proclaim,
and every age shall know your name.
I sing of mercies that endure,
of faithfulness forever sure.

Almighty God, your lofty throne
has justice for its cornerstone;
and shining bright before your face
are truth and love and boundless grace.
The heavens shall join in glad accord
to praise your wondrous work and word.

The swelling sea obeys your will;
its angry waves your voice can still.
And yours, by right, the heavens and earth,
the world in life, in death, in birth.
The whole creation's awesome frame
proclaims its Maker's glorious name.

With blessing is the nation crowned
whose people know the joyful sound;
they in the light, O God, shall live,
the light your face and favour give.
All glory unto God we yield,
who is our constant help and shield.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Meditation "Christmas Always Finds Me"
Maryn and Arlene Hunter

Reflection Always Room For You

The Celebration of Baptism -

Peyton Debra Johnson, Daughter of Robert and Amanda Johnson
And

Roman David Fairbairn Jr, Son of David Fairbarin and Haley
Donaldson

Statement of Purpose

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

By water and the Spirit,
we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own,
welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ,
united with Christ,
united with one another and the Christian community of
every time and place;
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace,
and justice,
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the
church in the world.

Presentation of Candidate

A representative of the congregation may present the candidate.

On behalf of the congregation of Trinity United Church, I present

Peyton Debra Johnson, Daughter of Robert and Amanda Johnson
And

Roman David Fairbairn Jr, Son of David Fairbarin and Haley
Donaldson

for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism

Profession of Faith and Promises

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ,
do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
in your words and actions?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of
faith
to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation,
and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Parents

Baptism marks an important step in Peyton's journey of faith.
Will you care for her,
and help her to take her place
within the mission and witness of Christ's Church?

I will, God being my helper.

Baptism marks an important step in Roman's journey of faith.
Will you care for him,
and help her to take his place
within the mission and witness of Christ's Church?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Godparents

Will you grow in faith with Peyton,
trusting that, “you are not alone, you live in God’s world”?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you grow in faith with Roman,
trusting that, “you are not alone, you live in God’s world”?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

The congregation may stand, as they are able, to pledge their support.

As Trinity United Church,
do you commit yourselves to support and nurture
these families within a community which worships God,
loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

Affirmation of Faith -

A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

Gracious and Holy God,
We bless you for the gift of life,
and, within it, the gift of water.
Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.
Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.
In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may
be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

If the water has not already been poured, it may be poured at the end of each of the following phrases -

Listen to its free-flowing powers;
Listen to its releasing powers;
Listen to its welcoming powers.

The Act of Baptism

Water is sprinkled generously and visibly three times the head while saying the following.

Peyton Debra Johnson,
you are baptized,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Roman David Fairbairn Jr,
you are baptized,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God, Source of Love,
Jesus Christ, Love incarnate,
and the Holy Spirit, Love's power,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Immediately following baptism with water, the minister marks Maren's forehead with the sign of the cross.

Peyton,

I mark you with the cross,
the sign of Love Incarnate.

Amen.

Roman,

I mark you with the cross,
the sign of Love Incarnate.

Amen.

Lighting of a Candle

A baptismal candle is lit from the Christ candle, signifying the light of Christ, and as a reminder of the connection between baptism and Easter. Words such as the following may be used as the candle is presented to one of the parents or sponsors.

Peyton and Roman, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good works,
and give glory to God.

Amen.

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism -

By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body.

We are children of the one God,

Mother and Father of us all.

We welcome you into the community of faith.

Blessing

May God bless you and keep you.

Amen.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Amen.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

Amen.

Welcoming A New Member

Statement of Purpose

Patty Agnew is invited to come forward with the Chair of Christian Community or her designate.

Patty Agnew comes to us with a long history of living out her faith in another Denomination and now feels called to serve with us at Trinity. We receive her on her profession of faith and the resonance she experiences with the ethos and ministry of the United Church of Canada.

The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by the Holy Spirit.

We gather to

celebrate God's presence,
to discern God's truth,
and to follow the way of Jesus.

By our baptism we are made members of Christ's church.

We exercise this membership in the denomination to which we belong, which for us is The United Church of Canada,
and within the context of a local community of faith.

We welcome into Trinity Gloria Beek and Patty Agnew who are already members of the church of Jesus Christ.

A sponsor presents Patty Agnew -

On behalf of Trinity United Church,
I present Patty Agnew
whom we welcome into the membership
of this community of faith.

Commitment of New Member

Patty,
will you join with us
as together we celebrate God's presence,
live with respect in creation,
love and serve others,
seek justice and resist evil?

I will, with God's help.

Congregational Commitment

The people may stand

Dear friends in Christ,
let us pledge to this Sister in Christ our support and care.

**As your brothers and sisters in Christ,
We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.**

**We pledge to you our love and our support.
With God's help, we will together live out
the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ,
we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities
of membership in this congregation.

We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

Blessing and Sending Forth

The grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
the Holy Spirit keep you.

Amen.

Hymn 76 "See Amid The Winter's Snow"

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain-

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

Lo, within a stable lies God who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.

Refrain-

Say, ye humble shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

Refrain-

As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of a Saviour's birth."

Refrain-

Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Refrain-

Invitation to the Offering

Often the very best gifts are given quietly, even anonymously, and yet such gifts have the power to change lives. God's gift in the Christ child arrived in a small town, a humble stable, to a couple no one invited in – and still that gift changes lives. Our gifts to God this Christmas share in that miracle of new life.

Offering Prayer

Generous and loving God, your gift to us in Christ Jesus still draws us to manger and opens our hearts with wonder. Bless our gifts in his name, so that they may draw others to your love, to find the blessing we have discovered in the One born for us. Amen.

Hymn "Christmas Amazing Grace"
Maryn and Arlene Hunter

Prayers of the People

Dear Lord,
We give you thanks for the peace of this place,
the deep and lasting peace you give to us.

We pray for all who dream dreams and vision a world of Hope, Joy,
Peace and Love,

for all who proclaim the Good News;

We remember all who build up the Body of Christ,

Who Host, Heal and Help

We give thanks for all who, with various talents, seek to establish
your kingdom.

Lord of all creation, **equip us to serve you.**

We pray for all in their various callings, that they may be sensitive to
the needs of others and to the world about them.

We remember the unemployed, the recently redundant, and those who
have never worked.

We pray for all organizations and agencies that care for the poor and
rejected of our world.

Lord of all creation, **equip us to serve you.**

We give thanks that you come to us, in our homes and in our work.

We give thanks that we have found favour with you, and that you
love us.

In our homes, make us attentive to your word and ready to do
your will.

We pray for expectant mothers, for lone parents, for those adopting
children.

We remember children in places of danger or violence, those being
led astray by others.

Lord of all creation, **equip us to serve you.**

Lord,

You are our strength and salvation:

you make us whole,

you give life which is eternal.

We pray for all who are in need at this time: for those whose lives lack peace, for all who are disturbed.

We pray for the homeless, for the work of Shelter, for the street children of our world.

We remember all who are in trouble or in sickness.

We pray for all who are caring for the needs of others.

Lord of all creation, **equip us to serve you.**

We give thanks for all who have faithfully served you and are now in the fullness of your glory.

We pray for loved ones now departed.

Lord of all creation, **equip us to serve you.**

We pray the prayer you taught us with an Advent intent -

The Lord's Prayer -

Emmanuel, You are with us.

Holy, Holy is your name.

Your reign soon come.

Your deepest longings soon be done here
among us as among all who expect You in Hope.

Give us each moment the strength
we need to keep us in our waiting.

Forgive us our sin.

Enable us to forgive those who sin against us.
Do not test us beyond our power to endure.

But in your loving mercy
deliver us through the darkness.

For in You is the full coming of all creation
in Holy Power and Quiet Love forever and ever. Amen.

EOORC Prayer Cycle

First United Church, Ottawa

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and
the Mainland of China

We Depart to Serve in Peace and with Love

Time for the Young

Hymn 54 "Unto Us A Boy Is Born" (vs. 1-4)

Unto us a boy is born! King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation.

Christ from heaven descending low comes, on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know;
becradled in the manger,
becradled in the manger.

Herod then with fear was filled: "A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
All the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury,
at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us,
unto the joys above us.

Benediction

To the only wise God be praise and glory for ever and ever.

To God who is our Rock and our Salvation be blessing and honour. And the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life,
be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Choral Amen / Postlude "Let It Be Christmas"
Maryn and Arlene Hunter

Recurring Events and Activities at Trinity	
Every Monday, 1:00pm	Book Group
First Monday, 9:30am	UCW
Fourth Monday, 9:30am	Property Team / Church Hall
Every Tuesday, All Day	Pastoral Visitation
First Tuesday, 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Van Horne
First Tuesday, 7:00pm	Outreach and Social Justice
Third Tuesday, 9:30am	Stewardship & Finance Team / Upper Room
Third Tuesday, 6:00pm	Potluck and Praise
Every Wednesday, 9:30am	Bible Study / Seasonal Study
First Wednesday, 1:00pm	Healing Pathway, Smiths Falls
Second Wednesday, 7:00pm	Spiritual Leadership Meeting
Third Wednesday, 1:00pm	Healing Pathway, Perth
Last Wednesday, 7:00pm	Council
Second Friday, 6:00pm	Rainbow 101
Every Sunday, 8:30am (Except Second Sunday)	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 8:30am	Early Communion
Second Sunday, 9:00am	Choir Practice

Second Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 1:00pm	Lanark Drum Circle