

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

120 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, Florida
850-222-1120 | www.tumct.org

Vol. 45

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025

No. 49

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Services at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.

†Please rise in body or in spirit.

CHAPEL SERVICE

8:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND VISION STATEMENT

PRELUDE "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" Keith Chapman

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | JOY
Jayne Mittan

Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. As we light this candle we are reminded of Christ's mission to rebuild, reconcile and restore joy. May the enduring presence of Christ be with us as we carry out the work of renewal in our lives and in our communities. God of joy, as this light grows brighter, may your joy overflow in our lives. Lead us to be co-workers in your mission of restoration, bringing joy where there is despair.

Come, Lord Jesus, our Peace. Shine your light in our hearts.

Sing refrain: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hymnal #215
"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Hymnal #881
The Apostles' Creed

†GLORIA PATRI Hymnal #71

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. E. Wayne Curry

CHURCH NOTICES / OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY Hymnal #94

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 1:46b-55

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams
"Joy is Sparked"

†RECESSIONAL HYMN See inside
"Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin"

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†POSTLUDE "Herr Gott, nun sei gepreiset" J.S. Bach

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

9:45 a.m.

†WORSHIP SONG "O Come All Ye Faithful"

†WELCOME AND VISION STATEMENT

†LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | JOY
Chris and Chelsea LaFever

†WORSHIP SONG "Angels We Have Heard on High"

†PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY HYMN "The First Noel"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 1:46b-55

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski
"Joy is Sparked"

†WORSHIP SONG "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

†WORSHIP SONG "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

†BENEDICTION

During the worship songs, you are invited to utilize the Prayer Station by the stained-glass window and light a candle as you pray.

Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request.

LITURGICAL SERVICE
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11:00 a.m.

† Please rise in body or in spirit.

WELCOME AND VISION STATEMENT

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

**The vision of Trinity United Methodist Church is to be a diverse Christian community
that leads as a shining beacon of God's love, actively engaging as the heart,
hands, and feet of Christ in the world.**

PRELUDE "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" Keith Chapman
Douglas Chaplow

INTROIT "We Shall Light a Thousand Candles" David Rasback
Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | JOY The Wicker Family

Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. As we light this candle we are reminded of Christ's mission to rebuild, reconcile and restore joy. May the enduring presence of Christ be with us as we carry out the work of renewal in our lives and in our communities. God of joy, as this light grows brighter, may your joy overflow in our lives. Lead us to be co-workers in your mission of restoration, bringing joy where there is despair.

Come, Lord Jesus, our Peace. Shine your light in our hearts.

Sing refrain: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph" Hymnal #215

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed Hymnal #881

† GLORIA PATRI Hymnal #71

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

† PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education
Children ages 3 through 2nd grade are invited to Kids' Praise in Room 205.

ANTHEM "Gesu Bambino" arr. Mark Hayes
Cody Whiddon, tenor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal #895

PRAYER RESPONSE "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Hymnal #230
**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.** Verse 4

Crucifer | Michael Plagens | **Ushers** | John Koehler, Karen Russell, Melanie Etters, Rev. Patty Daniels, Rebecca Plagens, Rob Wicker, James Hunt | **Altar Guild** | Mary Ann Moore, Beverly Burleson, Donna Frinks, Earline Adkison, Jimmy Richerson, Corbin Moore, Cynthia Smith, Linda Campbell, Ann Melder, Marilyn Dean, Meg Hilaman, Julie Pararo, Cindy Campbell, Renee White, Georgia Jordan, Suzette Crosby, Diane Jacobs, Valerie Dowell | **Club Car Drivers** | Edward Young, Ben Gilleland, Jimmy Henderson

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS / CHURCH NOTICES

OFFERTORY

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
Jubilation Bells

arr. Kathy Moglebust

†DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Hymnal #94

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

†HYMN

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Hymnal #242

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 1:46b-55

The Word of God for the People of God. Isaiah 35:1-10

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Joy is Sparked"

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin"

Hymn Tune, Hymnal #250

**Mary gladly told her cousin, "Praise the Lord! My spirit sings!"
Young and humble, she'd been chosen! God was surely changing things!
God of love, her words ring true, as we sing her prayer to you:
Now my soul is gladly singing at the greatness of the Lord.
I rejoice, for God is bringing His salvation to the world.
All who live will say I'm blest even in my lowliness.**

**God is mighty, just and holy, and he's done great things for me.
Those who fear him know the mercy that God gives us endlessly.
Mighty ones are brought down low; lowly ones find blessings flow.**

**God has filled the poor and hungry, and he's sent the rich away.
God is active here in history, in a real and wondrous way.
God has promised, and I'm blessed, for I know God's faithfulness.**

†BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†CHORAL BENEDICTION

"A Claire Benediction"

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

"Herr Gott, nun sei gepreiset"
Douglas Chaplow

J.S. Bach

Please remain seated for the postlude.

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor

Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Associate Pastor

Rev. E. Wayne Curry, Minister of Pastoral Care

Alex Taylor, Contemporary Worship Music Leader | Warren May, Interim Director of Traditional Music

Douglas Chaplow, Organist

WELCOME

Welcome to worship today! We're glad you are here. Please sign the pew pad to register your attendance. If you're visiting, fill out a Connect Card, and on your way out, be sure to see one of our ushers for a small gift as a thank you for joining us!

PRAYER CONCERNS

May we pray for you? A prayer card can be found in the pews. Prayer requests are listed by **name** only. Please lift up in prayer...

Angela Gray	Cheatham family
Don and Pam Crosby	Kris Albers and family

TSO PRESENTS HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Come see Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra's production of Handel's *Messiah* today at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. TRINITY MEMBERS RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT ON TICKETS! Use the discount code TUMC when purchasing your tickets at TallahasseeSymphony.org.

PRAYERS AND SQUARES CHRISTMAS TEA

Prayers and Squares will be meeting for Christmas Tea on December 20 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Duclos. Beginning in January, the group will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES December 24

3:00 p.m.	Contemporary Christmas Eve Service
5:30 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service
8:00 p.m.	Lessons and Carols Service
11:00 p.m.	Candlelight and Communion Service

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, December 14

8:30 a.m.	Chapel Service
8:30 a.m.	Yates Heritage Center Open
9:45 a.m.	Contemporary Service
8:30/9:45/11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Liturgical Service
3:00 p.m.	TSO Presents Handel's <i>Messiah</i>
4:00 p.m.	Youth Praise Band
5:30 p.m.	Youth Christmas Party
5:00 p.m.	Steel Pans
6:15 p.m.	Jubilation Bells

Monday, December 15

9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
11:00 a.m.	Snack Pack Distribution
6:30 p.m.	Centering Prayer

Tuesday, December 16

7:00 a.m.	Men's Daybreak
9:40 a.m.	BFC Staying Strong
11:00 a.m.	BFC Variety Mix
12:10 p.m.	Flex on the Floor
1:00 p.m.	Heavenly Chimes
6:30 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery
7:30 p.m.	Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, December 17

3:30 p.m.	NETKids
4:15 p.m.	Richard Andrews' Bible Study
4:30 p.m.	Justice Meeting
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
5:30 p.m.	One Bright and Shining Star
6:15 p.m.	Trinity Ringers
6:30 p.m.	Praise Band
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 18

11:00 a.m.	Snack Pack Distribution
11:00 a.m.	BFC Variety Mix
12:10 p.m.	BFC Staying Strong
6:30 p.m.	Service of Hope and Remembrance

Friday, December 19

11:30 a.m.	Preschool Christmas Program
10:00 a.m.	Friday Study Group

SCAN THE QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT TRINITY.



Sunday School



Service



Fellowship



Giving

Our Vision

The vision of Trinity United Methodist Church is to be a diverse Christian community that leads as a shining beacon of God's love, actively engaging as the heart, hands, and feet of Christ in the world.

Our Mission

Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.



Trinity United Methodist Church
Poinsettia and Wreath Order Form
2025



Deadline for ordering poinsettias and wreaths in memory or honor of loved ones is Monday, December 15.

Poinsettias | Poinsettias can be ordered for \$30 each. They will adorn the sanctuary for all Christmas Eve worship services and may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service you attend or donated for the church's outreach. Please indicate your preference below.

Sanctuary Wreaths | There are (4) four wreaths for the sanctuary windows (\$100 each) still available that will remain in the sanctuary throughout the season and will not be available for take-home. **These orders will be received at the Church Office only on a first come, first served basis and must be reserved. All altar wreaths have been claimed at this point.** Contact (850) 222-1120 to make your reservation.

Please fill in the information below and include your payment to Trinity (memo: poinsettia). Please use an offering envelope for the form and payment if you want to place it in the offering plate. If you prefer, you may mail them to: Trinity UMC, PO Box 1086, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Order forms must be received in the church office by December 17, 2025.

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please circle "in honor" or "in memory" and print names clearly.

I would like a poinsettia in honor / in memory of:

1. Name _____

I would like a poinsettia in honor / in memory of:

2. Name _____



I would like a poinsettia in honor / in memory of:

3. Name _____

Please select one of the following options:

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia(s) on Christmas Eve.

_____ I would like to donate my poinsettia(s) for outreach.



Together with their families

Jacob Tenison
and
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

joyfully invite you to attend their wedding

on

January 10, 2026

at


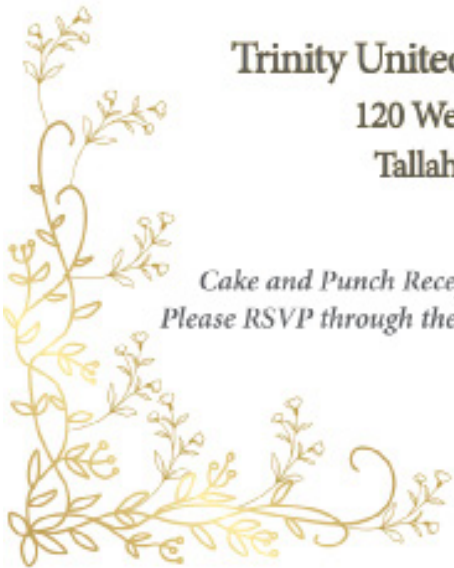
3:00 p.m.

in the sanctuary of

Trinity United Methodist Church

120 West Park Avenue

Tallahassee, Florida



*Cake and Punch Reception to follow in Moor Hall
Please RSVP through the Events page link on the website*