



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## READING, PENNSYLVANIA

### First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025



*The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (1498)*  
*Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)*

*Advent opens with Jesus' warning to stay awake for the Son of Man's coming, a text steeped in apocalyptic unease and hope. Dürer's dense, tumbling image of the Four Horsemen immerses viewers in that same sense of impending upheaval, inviting the church to practice watchful repentance in a world that still feels the hooves of conquest, war, famine, and death.*

# WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FOUNDED IN 1751

*The Rev. Hans E.  
Becklin*  
SENIOR PASTOR

*Deaconess Deborah  
Matern Graf*  
DEACON FOR  
FORMATION  
AND SERVICE

*Dr. Cameron  
Lee Wentz*  
CANTOR

*Matthew Mellen*  
DIRECTOR OF  
TECHNOLOGY AND  
COMMUNICATION

*Rachel Gambone*  
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
COORDINATOR

*Peter Graf*  
FINANCIAL  
ADMINISTRATOR

*Pam Wasmuth*  
BOOKKEEPER

*John McKeon*  
PROPERTY MANAGER

*Dave Troche*  
SEXTON



*The Rev. Fred S.  
Opalinski*  
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.  
Eddinger*  
MINISTER OF MUSIC  
EMERITA



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.

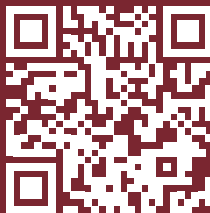


CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

OUR WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF OFFERING. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.



WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

# The HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

## PRELUDE

Advent Majesty

Karen Buckwalter  
(b. 1952)

*Trinity Ringers*

## CHORAL INTROIT

Come Unto Us

Karen Marroli  
(b. 1975)

*As the Introit begins,  
please stand in body  
or spirit and face the  
processional cross.*

*Trinity Choir*

Come unto us and fill us,  
fill us with your light;  
fill us with your hope;  
fill us with your love;  
fill us with your light.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

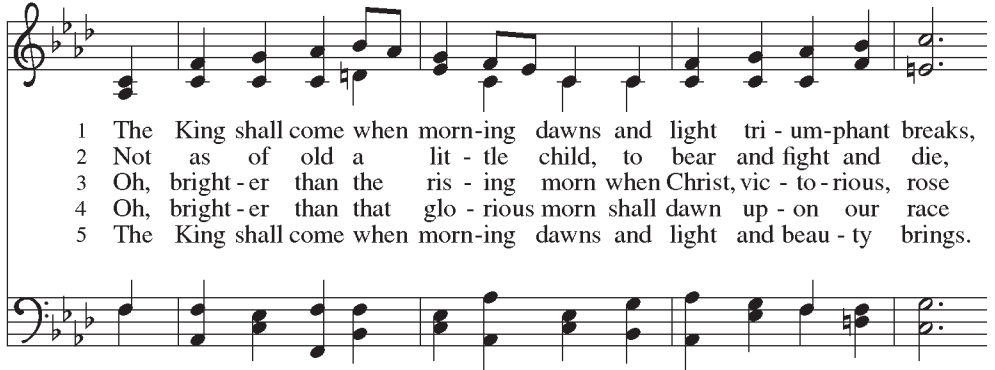
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## The King Shall Come

ELW 260

*Continue to follow  
the processional cross,  
turning as it  
passes you.*



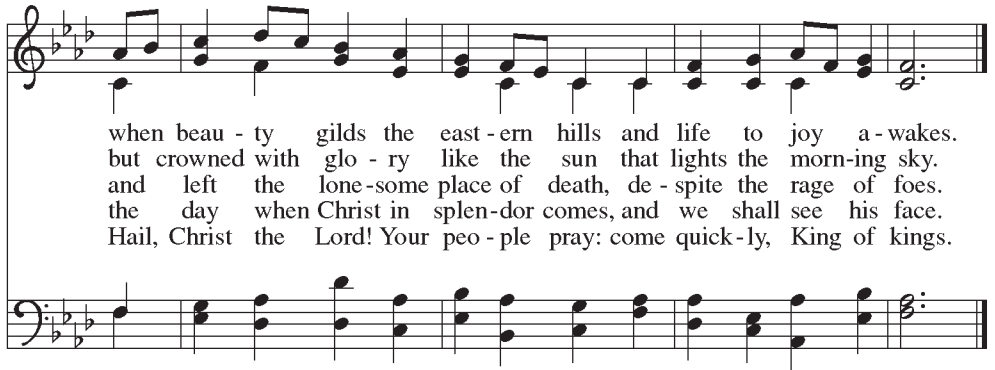
1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

Text: John Brownlie,  
1859-1925

Music:  
CONSOLATION,  
A. Davisson,  
*Kentucky Harmony*,  
1816;

arr. Theodore A. Beck,  
1929-2003

Arr. © 1969 Concordia  
Publishing House



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

*In Advent instead  
of being directed to  
God the Father, this  
prayer is directed to  
God the Son, showing  
us how Advent is  
particularly focused  
on the identity and  
work of Jesus.*

*Please be seated.*

*Young people come  
forward as the  
congregation sings  
a refrain, found on  
page 18. During this  
time, we learn about  
the liturgy together.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ,  
and come. By your merciful  
protection save us from the  
threatening dangers of our sins,  
and enlighten our walk in the way

of your salvation, for you live and  
reign with the Father and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw  
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In 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 any more.  
O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

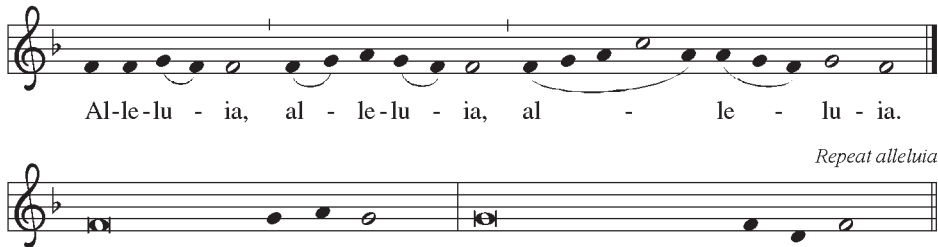
Advent

*Please stand  
in body or spirit to  
welcome the Gospel.*

*The congregation  
sings the Alleluia and  
Proper Verse.*

*The Alleluia is  
repeated after the  
verse.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**Show us your steadfast | love, O Lord,  
and grant us | your salvation.**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Hans E. Becklin



*Please stand  
in body or spirit.*

*The hymn can be  
sung in harmony for  
each verse.*

*The harmonized  
setting can be found  
in the red hymnal  
(ELW).*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

ELW 436



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voice - es, and at the  
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai,  
1556-1608;  
tr. composite

Music: WACHET  
AUF,  
Philipp Nicolai

Text: © 1999 Augsburg  
Fortress

## APOSTLES' CREED

*Together, we confess  
the faith of the  
Church.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



*Please kneel in  
body or spirit.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*After a brief silence  
each petition  
concludes:*

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*After the final  
petition:*

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.  
**Amen.**

### IN OUR PRAYERS

#### IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Peg Coleman
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Peggy Wentz

#### TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Franki Aitken
- ♦ Bill & Tina  
Angstadt
- ♦ Barbara  
Auchenbach
- ♦ George & Cindy  
Balchunas
- ♦ Michael & Kori  
Barnett

#### ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ David Ruth
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Rob Unger
- ♦ Danielle Andress
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Christina
- McMahon
- ♦ Wesley Miller
- ♦ Hildegard Pohl
- ♦ Yadar

*All may make the  
sign of the cross, the  
sign that is marked  
at baptism, as the  
presiding minister  
begins.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts  
are open, all desires known, and  
from whom no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly  
love you and worthily magnify  
your holy name, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord  
**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for  
reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are in bondage  
to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in  
thought, word, and deed, by what  
we have done and by what we have  
left undone. We have not loved  
you with our whole heart; we have  
not loved our neighbors**

**as ourselves. For the sake of your  
Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on  
us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead  
us, so that we may delight in your  
will and walk in your ways, to the  
glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has  
given his Son to die for us and, for  
his sake, forgives us all our sins. As  
a called and ordained minister of  
the Church of Christ, and by his  
authority, I therefore declare to

you the entire forgiveness  
of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

*Please stand.*

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please greet one  
another and then  
be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The offering, bread,  
and wine are  
brought forward  
and the altar is set.*

## OFFERTORY

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz  
(1919-2009)

### *Trinity Choir*

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.  
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God,  
who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy, Lord!  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon!  
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;  
they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

*Please stand  
in body or spirit.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

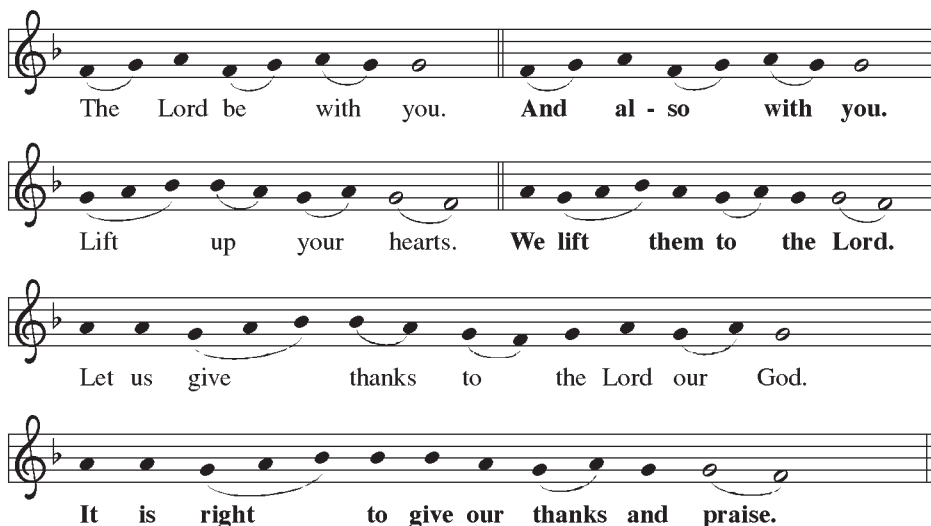
Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and  
streams in the desert. Through this  
meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the  
world signs of your kingdom come.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presider greets  
the assembly and  
invites all to give  
thanks.*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.  
You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys,  
and taught them by the prophets.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life.

*During the Words of  
Institution, the bread  
and wine are elevated  
for the congregation  
to revere and adore  
Christ's presence in  
our midst.*

IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED,  
OUR LORD JESUS TOOK BREAD,  
AND GAVE THANKS; BROKE IT,  
AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES,  
SAYING: TAKE AND EAT;  
THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.  
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AGAIN, AFTER SUPPER,  
HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS,  
AND GAVE IT FOR ALL TO DRINK,  
SAYING: THIS CUP  
IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD,  
SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL PEOPLE  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN.  
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

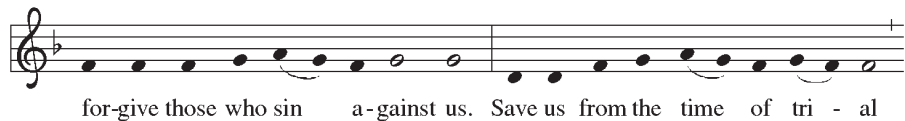
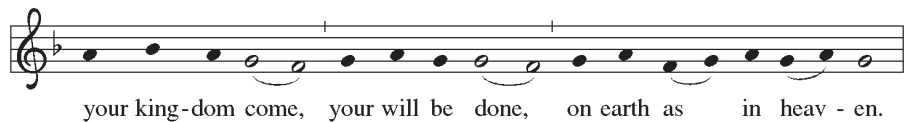


Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,  
 and make us one in this community of faith  
 and with your people throughout the world.  
 Glory and praise to you, O God,  
 Author of life,  
 Word made flesh,  
 Power of the Most High,  
 now and forever.



## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



*Silence is kept as the  
bread is broken.  
Please be seated.*

*Detailed instructions  
for communion can  
be found on page 19.*

*This hymn can be  
found in the red  
hymnal (ELW).*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247



*Please stand  
in body or spirit.*

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy  
and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the

feast, welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the  
name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

*As a sign of God's  
blessing, you may  
make the sign  
of the cross.*

## BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

**Amen.**

Face the processional  
cross, turning as it  
passes you.

## SENDING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1 & 2)

ELW 257

Text: *Psalterium  
Cantionum  
Catholicarum*,  
Köln, 1710;  
tr. composite

Music: VENI,  
EMMANUEL,  
French processional,  
15th cent.

Text: sts. 2. 6. 7 © 1997  
Augsburg Fortress

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;

*Refrain*  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
teach us your will and guide our way.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

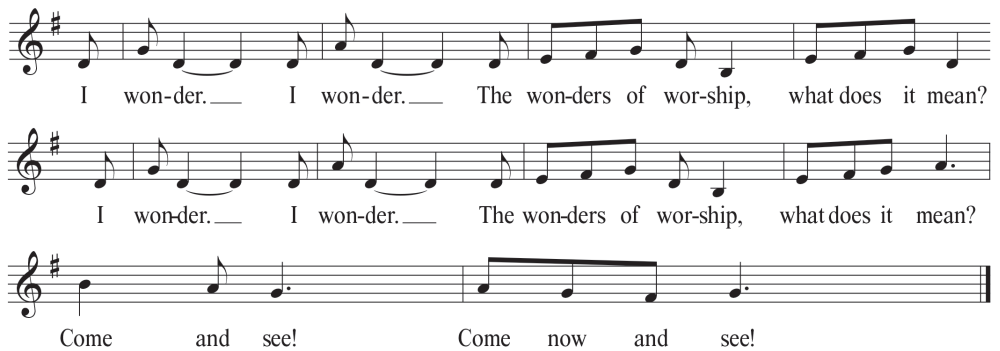
## POSTLUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)



## WONDERS OF WORSHIP SONG



I won-der. I won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean?  
I won-der. I won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean?  
Come and see! Come now and see!

### SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

In-person: 102

Online: 45

## COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.



When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER  
ASSISTING MINISTER  
CANTOR  
LECTOR  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT  
ACOLYTE  
GREETER

Pr. Hans E. Becklin  
Lisa Speece  
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz  
Donna Osborne  
Charlene Norton  
William Norton-Ritz  
Anita Dolak

USHERS

Lawrence Fredericks, Andrew Smith,  
Joeseh Speece

MEDIA TEAM

Amy Bornhofen, Abbie Smith,  
Danielle Smith

ALTAR GUILD

Anita Dolak, Donna Osborne,  
David Himes & Amy Stewart-Himes,

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Jenn Smith, Amy Reinsel  
Program Staff

## WORSHIP SPONSORS

*These offerings help to defray the cost of altar flowers and the television broadcast.*

AMY LITVINOV  
in honor of Anna's 11th birthday

JORGE TOMÁS & CAMERON WENTZ  
celebrating 4 years of marriage and  
1 year in Berks County

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00 AM

ADVENT BREAKFAST - All Saints Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

JOINT VESTRY/FINANCE MEETING  
Chapel

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

6:30 PM

TRINITY YOUTH SERVE DINNER AT  
OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

12:05 PM

MIDDAY WORSHIP - Chapel

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00 AM

Trinity Together Sunday Forum - Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 PM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

## STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection.

Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.



## WONDERS OF WORSHIP: ADVENT

