



*John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness* by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

Trinity United Methodist Church  
Alexandria, Virginia

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2017  
Eleven o'clock in the morning



CONNECTING  
GROWING  
SERVING  
CELEBRATING

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

✠ *Please stand in body and/or spirit.*

*Out of reverence for God and respect for fellow worshipers, please silence all electronic devices.*

*Childcare for children age 3 and younger is available in our nursery (room 210). Please see an usher for more information.*



### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Bill Davis

*Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church. God's love be in us and among us as we greet all who enter our doors as children of God. Please take a moment to complete the Connection Card and prepare to place it in the offering plate later in the service.*

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Dietrich Buxtehude

### INTROIT

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

### ✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Willis

A voice cries out, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
**make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**"

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

**For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the LORD.**

Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day,  
**and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst.**

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

### ✠ OPENING COLLECT

Pastor Bill Davis

Blessed are you, God of peace,  
for your word is good news to the oppressed,  
healing for the brokenhearted,  
and freedom for all who are held captive.  
Gladden our hearts and fashion the earth  
into a garden of righteousness and praise;  
and sanctify us entirely, in body, soul, and spirit,  
for the coming of the One who even now is among us,  
your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

### ✠ HYMN

*Heralds of Christ*

Hymnal no. 567

### LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Jennifer, Jake, William and Benjamin Bemisderfer

### CONFESSION AND PARDON

Pastor Bill Davis

**God of holiness and forgiving mercy,  
we have sinned against you and each other  
in thought, and word, and deed.**

**We have turned away from your life-giving word,  
and ignored the message of those you have sent.**

**We are unprepared for the coming of the Christ.**

**Have mercy upon us and forgive us, we pray,  
that, strengthened by your love,  
we may serve you with faith, hope, and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(Silence for reflection and confession)*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

✠THE PEACE

Pastor Bill Davis

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*All exchange signs and words of Christ's peace.*

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Jill Robinson

*We encourage children to stay and participate in worship. If necessary, however, preschool-age children (those not yet in kindergarten) and younger may go upstairs to the Nursery in room 210. Worship bags for elementary age children can be obtained from an usher.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Pew Bible, OT, Page 691

Susan Willis

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Lo, In the Time Appointed*

Healy Willan

*Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come,; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom; and upon the throne of David shall he reign for ever. Alleluia.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Pew Bible, NT, Page 205

Susan Willis

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

✠GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please sing before and after the Gospel Lesson.)*

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

✠GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Pew Bible, NT, Page 91

Carrie Pritts

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

SERMON

“Who Are You?”

Carrie Pritts

✠HYMN

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Hymnal no. 209

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*An Advent Creed*

St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, Scotland

**We believe in God,**

**robed in splendor, veiled in mystery,  
ruler alike of darkness and light.**

**We encounter God in Jesus Christ,**

**whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world:  
reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied;  
who was tortured and put to death,  
but whose radiance could not be quenched.**

**We walk with God guided by the light of God's loving Spirit,  
who enters the shadowed places of our hearts  
and leads us into truth and life.**

**We wait for God and the fulfillment of God's promises,  
when the darkness will hold no fear  
and the light will no longer blind,  
but creation will be made whole once more  
and God's peace will reign forever. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Bill Davis

A pause follows each prayer, which ends with: *Leader: God of Advent joy...* *People: **Hear our prayer.***

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Bill Davis

OFFERTORY

*From Partita on "Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele"*

Johann Pachelbel

✠THE DOXOLOGY

*Veni Emmanuel*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Bill Davis

Blessed are you, God Most High,  
for you have done wonderful things for your people,  
restoring us to life and joy in Jesus Christ  
and blessing us with the gift of laughter.  
Use the tithes and gifts we offer  
to bring hope and happiness to our neighbors  
through the mission of your church,  
the body of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠HYMN

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Hymnal no. 203

✠DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor Bill Davis

God the Father, judge all-merciful,  
make you worthy of a place in the kingdom.  
**Amen.**

God the Son, coming to the world in power,  
reveal among you the promise of glory.  
**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit make you steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope, and constant in love.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of the eternal and merciful God,  
Three-in-One and One-in-Three,  
abide with you now and throughout eternity.  
**Amen.**

✂CHORAL RESPONSE

✂POSTLUDE

*From Partita on "Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele"*

Johann Pachelbel

✂ ✂ ✂

**Those Assisting in Worship Today:**

**Acolyte:** Logan Williams and Aydan Hoganson

**Counters:** Ginny Carl, Marshall Cook, Renèe Ruppel

**Greeters:** Nancy and Richard Hunt

**Liturgist:** Susan Willis

**Pew Duty:** John Ploch

**Sound:** Harley Hopkins

**Ushers:** Jenny Darlington, Lucelle O'Flaherty (Head Usher), Pat Nordine, Steve Norwood, Eric Schilling

**The flowers on the altar** are given for the glory of God and with much gratitude for Mary Gillman's work and creativity on Trinity's new website. Thank you from Jeff Lane and Mary Beth Buchholz.

**Stewardship Update:** 75 Commitments have been submitted for 2018, totaling \$329,797.

**Today's anthem** is by Canadian composer Healey Willan (1880-1968) Very much a conservative in his approach to composition, many of his works show the influence of the English Renaissance. Such is the case with today's contrapuntal motet for Advent. The text was taken from an antiphon of the medieval Sarum (Salisbury) Rite: the first liturgy sanctioned by the newly separated Church of England in the 1530s. The rite fell out of favor and was revived in the late 19th and early 20th century.

**Please join us** in the Narthex for refreshments and fellowship with our church family.

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## TRINITY UMC'S WEEKLY NEWS

**As a Reminder:** Year-end contributions must be made by Sunday, December 31 to count toward your 2017 giving. Any contributions received on or after January 1 will count toward your 2018 giving. Please contact the church office with any questions.

**Tree Lighting at the Pit:** Santa Claus is coming to the Pit (AKA Beverley Park at the corner of North and South Overlook Drives) today at 4:30 PM! Bring your family members of all ages and join us at our newly-renovated neighborhood park for a longstanding tradition: the lighting of the North Ridge holiday tree! We are all about old-fashioned fun and community cheer, complete with the tree lighting, caroling, doughnuts, hot cocoa and apple cider. Plus, a visit from the Jolly Old Elf himself! (Shhh! Don't miss Santa arriving on a fire truck.) For more information or questions, contact: Rachel Colangelo, [rachel.y.colangelo@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.y.colangelo@gmail.com).

**The Youth Christmas Pot Luck, Caroling, and White Elephant Gift Exchange** is tonight December 17 at 5:30 PM! It is pot luck style. Bring a dish to share that will feed 5-7 people instead of \$5. Wear your best worst Christmas garb but don't forget to dress warmly because we will be Christmas caroling in the neighborhood! We will also be having a White Elephant gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift worth no more than \$10. Bring a friend or two as

well! This is the perfect event for first time guests to come to. RSVPs are appreciated but not necessary. Send any RSVPs or questions to our Christian Formation Director, Carrie Pritts ([christianformation@trinityalexandria.org](mailto:christianformation@trinityalexandria.org)) Hope to see you there!

**Trinity Commemorative Ornaments!** You have the opportunity to purchase commemorative Christmas ornaments. These ornaments are in honor of Trinity's 240th Anniversary and they feature the rose window. Whether for your Christmas tree or as a gift, you'll love these beautiful creations. Please contact Jenessa in the Church Office or someone from the Connecting Team to purchase yours for \$25.00.

**Trinity's Table:** Join us on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall where Mark Sakuta prepares and serves delicious meals for us.

**Wednesday's Menu (12/20):** Menu ~ Taste of Poland: Kielbasa; Potato Perogi (Polish dumpling sautéed in onion and butter); Gołąbki (stuffed cabbage); Sauerkraut Salad w/ warm bacon dressing; Chruściki (Polish Angel wings dessert like elephant ears)

Cost: \$8 per adult/\$5 per child (12 & younger)/\$25 for family of 4 or more (2 adults & children). Please RSVP on the Connection cards and place in the offering plate or contact the church office: [office@trinityalexandria.org](mailto:office@trinityalexandria.org).

# TRINITY UMC'S WEEKLY NEWS

**Christmas Eve at Trinity Church:** Trinity's Christmas Eve Family Service at 3:30 PM offers an opportunity for every child in attendance to be a part of the Nativity Story, which we will create during the service. We invite each child to choose a costume and to participate as an angel or a shepherd. We also feature the Three Kings and their gifts and camels as well as the Holy Family.

We especially ask all boys and girls to bring stuffed animals of all kinds to Miss Linda's office to make our Nativity Scene complete.

Special music by members of Trinity's Children's Choirs and congregational singing of favorite Christmas carols in response to hearing the Christmas Story makes this service very meaningful for all ages. Come early and bring your friends and family!

Remember, too, a Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion and Candlelight begins at 9:00 PM on Christmas Eve. Join us for a more contemplative worship in the mysterious setting of shadows and light with the Word both spoken and sung and holy hospitality extended at the Lord's Table.

Please note: we do not offer a nursery on Christmas Eve.

**Read and Join!** Book Group starts in January: Join friends and invite friends to take part in the January book group where we discuss Richard Rohr's, *Falling Upward*, starting Sunday, January 28, 5:30 - 7 PM in the Parlor. With Jill Robinson taking the lead, the group meets February 11, February 18 and March 4. For more information contact Jill Robinson: [jillrobinson55@gmail.com](mailto:jillrobinson55@gmail.com). From Rohr's book jacket: This message of "falling down" - that is in fact moving upward - is the most resisted and counterintuitive of messages in the world's religions, including and most especially Christianity. Richard Rohr offers a new paradigm for understanding how our failings can be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth. We grow spiritually more by doing it wrong than by doing it right.

**Trinity has a New Website!** Over the last few months, we've been searching for a new website provider, developing content, and WE ARE LIVE! Visit us at our old address: [www.trinityalexandria.org](http://www.trinityalexandria.org). Our new provider, Brick River, specializes in hosting websites for many United Methodist Churches. They provide a platform that is incredibly easy to configure and contains links to the national UMC news. Our new website is an important component in our outreach to the community, highlighting our friendly congregation, inter-generational leadership, inspiring sermons, and traditional music. We invite you to explore the site and be sure to try it on your mobile device!

**Trinity Church long has been a faithful partner for Fifth Sunday Dinners** after worship at Rising Hope, our mission church along the Route 1 corridor that serves the least, the lost, the lonely, and the left-out. December 31 is a fifth Sunday and the following donated meal items need to be brought to Trinity Church's kitchen freezer by 10 AM on Friday, December 22, in order to deliver them to Rising Hope by noon that same day. Make note of the cooking time on top. Casseroles need to be frozen since this is a week before they are used.

- 1 person to prepare your favorite chicken and rice or pasta casserole (recipe provided upon request) for 20
- 2 persons to bring canned fruit, to serve 30
- 2 persons to bring canned green beans, to serve 30
- 4 persons to bring 3 dozen cookies each

Thanks for sharing from our abundance for those in need. Contact Sue Stewart ([riverfarm@cox.net](mailto:riverfarm@cox.net)) with any questions or to sign up.

**December is UMFS Month** in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Formerly United Methodist Family Services, UMFS advocates for high-risk children and families. UMFS does not receive any apportionment funds, so local churches are critical in providing financial support as well as passionate volunteers, much needed prayers, and valuable donations. The December offering provides funds for UMFS regional centers for Treatment Foster Care and community-based services which support foster families and adoptive families throughout Virginia; UMFS Charterhouse Schools in Richmond and Edinburg which provide specialized therapeutic education for students with emotional, behavioral, or developmental challenges, or autism; and UMFS Child and Family Healing Center, a residential program providing round-the-clock support for children with acute needs. To donate, make checks payable to Trinity UMC and note, "UMFS," or go to [www.umfs.org](http://www.umfs.org).

**Our Music Program** at Trinity is open to all! We invite you to join us as we begin a new season of anthems for singing and compositions for ringing. In addition, if there are those who wish to contribute instrumental music to our services, please know that your talents are welcome. We will be preparing music for the New Year, with rehearsals resuming the first week in January. We have a three octave set of handbells and need more ringers to complete the choir. If you have experience but cannot commit, you could offer to be a substitute ringer. The Chancel Choir welcomes new singers in all sections. There are no auditions for any of the choirs. Come try us out! And if you wish some private coaching, that is also available. Contact Linda Cancellieri, our Music Director with any questions at [music@trinityalexandria.org](mailto:music@trinityalexandria.org).

# THIS WEEK AT TRINITY UMC

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12/17/17</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
	9:30 AM	Nursery Opens (Room 210)
	9:30 AM	Rise and Shine Inter-Generational Forum (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00 AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	12:30 PM	Choristers Rehearsal (Music Suite)
	3:00 PM	Brownie Troop #1193 Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
	3:30 PM	Junior Troop #5041 Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
	5:30 PM	Youth Group Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/18/17</b>	<b>Trinity Preschool Closed for Winter Break (<i>through January 2</i>)</b>
	2:45 PM	Brownie Troop #4905 Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/19/17</b>	
	7:00 PM	Boy Scout Troop #113 Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/20/17</b>	
	2:30 PM	Trinity UMC Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
	5:30 PM	Trinity's Table ~ Taste of Poland (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00 PM	Centering Prayer (Chapel)
	6:15 PM	Trebles Rehearsal (Music Suite)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/21/17</b>	
	6:15 PM	Trinity Ringers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12/24/17</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
	9:30 AM	Nursery Opens (Room 210)
	9:30 AM	Rise and Shine Inter-Generational Forum (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00 AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
		<b>Christmas Eve</b>
	3:30 PM	Family Service and Children's Pageant (Sanctuary)
	9:00 PM	Lessons and Carols with Communion and Candlelight (Sanctuary)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/25/17</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
		Church Office Closed

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**The Welcome Statement of Trinity United Methodist Church is:**

*"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."* Matthew 10:40

*Trinity United Methodist Church is committed to be a congregation of Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors. We believe all people are of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's creation and as demonstrated by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. As God's love extends to all, we welcome everyone without exception, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, family structure, socio-economic or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, faith history or life experience. We recognize that we are all different, and those differences make us a stronger community of faith as we worship together to grow in our relationship with God and one another.*

**The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is:**

*Building a strong Christian community to find, share, and celebrate the love of Christ in our hearts, neighbors and our world.*

# TRINITY UMC'S SAVE THE DATES

December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent - Sunday Morning Worship at 11 AM

December 24: Christmas Eve

~ Family Service and Children's Pageant at **3:30 PM**

~ Service of Holy Communion and Candlelight at 9PM

December 25: Trinity UM Church Office closed in observance of Christmas Day.

December 31: Year-end contributions must be made by Sunday, December 31, to count toward your 2017 giving. Any contributions received on or after January 1 will count toward your 2018 giving. Please contact the church office with any questions.

December 31: New Year's Eve

January 1: Trinity UM Church Office closed in observance of New Year's Day.

January 13: 2018 Bi-District Training Day

**2018 Bi-District Training Day**  
January 13, 2018  
For Church Leaders, Pastors, Students

**Christ Church**  
7600 Ox Road  
Fairfax Station

**Courageous Leadership:**  
featuring Mike Slaughter  
Ginghamsburg Church

Register online!

Registration Opens November 15: [NoVaUMC.org/BDTD-2018](http://NoVaUMC.org/BDTD-2018)

**NEW!** Pre-Conference Q&A Friday Night, Jan. 12  
@ Floris with Mike Slaughter & Tom Berlin

## Trinity United Methodist Church

2911 Cameron Mills Road  
Alexandria, VA 22302

Phone: (703) 549-5500 | Fax: (703) 549-7410

Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 5 PM | Friday 9 AM - 2 PM

Find us on the Web: [www.trinityalexandria.org](http://www.trinityalexandria.org) | Facebook: *Trinity UMC-Alexandria*

### Trinity United Methodist Church Staff

Resident Bishop  
Alexandria District Superintendent  
Pastor  
Director of Music  
Director of Christian Formation  
Administrative Assistant  
Head of School, Trinity Preschool  
Office Manager, Trinity Preschool  
Nursery Supervisor  
Nursery Assistant  
Buildings and Grounds  
Accountant

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis  
Rev. Jeff Mickle  
Rev. William A. Davis, Jr.  
Linda Cancellieri  
Carrie Pritts  
Jenessa M. Stokes  
Renee Hoegberg  
Claire Maucieri  
Luz Reyes  
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