



LABYRINTH  
Meditation after Postlude

# “TO DO ALL THE GOOD WE CAN.”

*Our Mission is grow passionate disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of our world*

- \*Timeless:** Connection with Ancient-Modern expression of worship
- \*Traditional:** Traditions of Trinity and Methodist Heritage
- \*Transforming:** Spiritual Education and Spiritual Formation

# WELCOME TO TRINITY

**WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE**

Philip Hooper

Trinity United Methodist is distinctively Christian, yet we believe God is larger than our theology and tradition. Our aim is to grow passionate disciples of Jesus for the transformation of our world.

*Whatever your thoughts on church,  
whatever your beliefs on God,  
you are welcome at Trinity*

# CALL TO WORSHIP BELL



# CENTERING WORDS

Rev. Kate Moore

Speaking words of love, God creates us, calls to us, and claims us as God's own. Speaking words of love, we too can create, call, and claim God's beauty and glory in the world.

# PRELUDE

# CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kate

God's strong voice calls us to worship,  
**calling us to sing and offer praise.**

God's creative voice calls us to worship,  
**calling us to life and light.**

God's loving voice calls us to worship,  
**calling us to love and be loved.**

Listen, for God's voice calls to us now.

# OPENING HYMN

# 245

## THE FIRST NOEL

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

# OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you,  
**and also with you**

Dr. Todd A. Gile

Let us pray:  
Spirit of creation and renewal,  
hover over our gathering this day,  
as You hovered over creation on that first day.  
Enter into our hearts and our lives,  
as You did at the day of our baptism.  
Descend on us like a dove,  
as You did on Jesus's day of baptism,  
that we may hear again  
Your words of love and adoption.  
Speak from the heavens into our minds,  
that we may perceive Your words of guidance  
and wisdom. Amen.

# INTRODUCTION



# FIRST LESSON

*Genesis 1: 1-5*

David King

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.



# Psalter

#761          *Psalm 29*

**R: With joy the Lord of Hosts proclaim; extol the great almighty name.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, upon many waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful, the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

**R: With joy the Lord of Hosts proclaim; extol the great almighty name.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,  
**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

The Lord makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.**

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness,  
**the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord makes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forests bare;  
**and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as Ruler for ever.

**May the Lord give strength to his people!**

**May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

**R:** With joy the Lord of Hosts proclaim; extol the great almighty name.

# SECOND LESSON

Acts 19: 1-7

David King

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

# Hymn

# 254

## WE THREE KINGS

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
  
5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

# \* GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

# MUSICAL OFFERING

**\* MESSAGE**

*Fit for a King*

Rev. Dr. Todd A. Gile

# Pastoral Prayer

Todd

## 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,  
the power and the glory for ever. Amen**

# OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

Response to the Message

- \* **Doxology—Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Offertory Prayer

Bless these gifts with Your voice of creation,  
Your healing, and Your love, Mighty God.  
Transform our meager offerings into abundant gifts  
for a world in need of Your light and life. Amen.

# **BENEDICTION**

You are loved.

**created in love,  
created for love,  
created to love.**

Let's go out living our love.

# POSTLUDE

# LABYRINTH

Some of you may have been to a church or a retreat center that had a labyrinth on the grounds. Walking the labyrinth is a way of praying with the body that invites the divine presence into an active conversation with the heart and soul. The labyrinth is a sacred pattern that leads you on a prescribed path to its center and back out again. As we walk along, we are invited to take note of our journey, the twists and turns, as they mirror our personal spiritual walks. We invite you to embark upon this journey of prayerful wandering, but you certainly don't have to wait until you are standing at the opening of an actual life-sized labyrinth. Follow these steps and trace the labyrinth with your finger in order to focus your thoughts and open yourself up to the presence of God.

## **First Movement: Releasing (Confession)**

Place your finger at the opening of the labyrinth. Pray silently prayer of confession. When finished, slowly move your finger forward along the labyrinth. Move at your own pace toward the center. Let the words of the prayer stay with you. Quiet your mind as you move through the labyrinth. Make room for emotions and stirrings that arise. What needs to be changed, forgiven, cleared, confronted, or healed in your life? Offer these situations to God as you move forward.

## **Second Movement: Receiving (Centering)**

When you reach the center, rest your finger there for a moment before you read a scripture reading for the day. When you are ready, read the passage slowly, as if you have never read it before. Center on Gods Word and be open to what God reveals to you through the reading. Return you finger to the center of the labyrinth and reflect on the passage and what it holds for you.

### **Third Movement: Returning (Intercession)**

As you prepare to leave the labyrinth, place your finger at the same opening in the center where you entered. Now lift up your intercessory prayers for the day and when finished, begin to move your finger back along the same path on which you entered. Let the intercessory prayers stay with you, and add to them as you make the turns and move along the pattern back out of the labyrinth. Be mindful of people and circumstances in the world that are in need of your prayers. Hold each one in your heart for a part of the journey outward.

#### **When you have finished...**

As you lift your finger from the labyrinths end, offer thanks to God.





**TRINITY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Lead Pastor  
Community Development Pastor  
Office Administrator  
Financial Secretary  
Music Director  
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Hospitality  
Part time Maintenance

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