



## **A Service of Holy Communion**

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

## **Merry Christmas! Welcome to Trinity!**

### **We are together on-site and online!**

If you are at Trinity in person, please maintain appropriate distance and wear your mask at all times. To minimize movement during the service, we celebrate Holy Communion with all participants holding their own bread and wine during the prayers and receiving communion in their seats. This makes it easier to maintain appropriate distance from others in person, and it also means that all participants on-site and online will share the same practice.

If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued. **As you watch the Live Stream, feel free to add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time!**

**If you are on-site, feel free to use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshipers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down!**

**WiFi internet access is publicly available. Please feel free to log onto the “Trinity Open” network with the password “Welcome!”**

When we don't have to practice social distancing, the people of Trinity Church gather around a table piled high with spiritual food, and there is a place for you and everyone at the table, whatever your religious practice may be. For now, even though we are not standing shoulder to shoulder for communion, we are gathered in Spirit sharing the bounty of faith. Trinity Church is a metropolitan house of prayer, a community of worship and spiritual inquiry, welcoming all people. Recognizing our common brokenness, yet rejoicing in the reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ, we nurture one another in our spiritual life together.

Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church and a member parish of the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania in the United States and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide. If you would like to learn more about Trinity, see all our contact information on the last page.

#### **PRELUDE**

“SNOWFALL” BY CLAUDE & RUTH THORNHILL

#### **CENTERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Light looked down and beheld darkness.**

**There will I go, said Light.**

**Peace looked down and beheld war.**

**There will I go, said Peace.**

**Love looked down and beheld hate.**

**There will I go, said Love.**

**So Light came, and shone.**

**So Peace came, and gave rest.**

**So Love came, and gave life.**

**And the Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us. Amen.**

*Centering Prayer by  
Laurence Housman  
(1865 – 1959),  
English playwright,  
writer, and  
illustrator*

## OPENING HYMN

**O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels;**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**God from God,  
Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten  
Son of the Father;  
Refrain**

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God,  
glory in the highest;  
Refrain**

“O come, all ye faithful”

**See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks,  
draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps;  
Refrain**

**Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee,  
with love and awe;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?  
Refrain**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be  
glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;  
Refrain**

## BIDDING PRAYER

God of all people, and creatures of every description, of the living and the dead,  
God of all places and planets, stars and galaxies,  
God of the beginning and end of time, of all time, even this moment,  
We gather to hear the sacred story of your love for us and all whom you have made.  
To open our hearts to the hope of renewal and restoration,  
we lay before you our worries and grief, our fears and regrets,  
and the hopes and commitments that are not bold enough stir us to live with the justice and  
love that are your will for the world.

**Hear us, we pray.**

Dear People of God,  
I invite you to entrust to God your deepest concerns and most hesitant hopes.  
I bid you pray for the sick and the dying, and for those who dignify the lives of the sick by caring  
for them.  
I bid you pray for those whose work is so basic to life that they are overlooked rather than  
honored.  
I bid you pray for children and their parents and teachers, struggling to awaken fascination and  
engagement with the wonders of the world while being required to keep the world and each  
other at a distance.

*The Bible reading  
is taken from The  
Inclusive Bible:  
The First Egalitarian  
Translation by  
Priests for Equality.*

*Nobody set out to  
write The Bible. The  
Hebrew Scriptures  
were created over  
many centuries by  
many people to  
record the Jewish  
People's experience  
of God. The same is  
true of the Christian  
Scriptures, some of  
which were letters  
written to a specific  
audience in response  
to specific needs—  
and were then  
found to be helpful  
to the faithful even  
after fulfilling their  
original purpose.*

I bid you pray for the the poor and the destitute, and for those who are prevented by misfortune or injustice from being able to meet their own needs or achieve their dreams.

I bid you pray for the brokenhearted, for those who have lost hope, and those who have lost loved ones.

Lay open your hearts, and with confidence lay down your burdens before God. For there is good news of great joy. Woven throughout the history of human life is the story of creativity, generosity, self-offering, acceptance, and love. Resounding throughout history are the echoes of the story of God in the world. Open your hearts to the story, told in words and music, of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

**Hear us, we pray. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness  
are seeing a brilliant light—  
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows  
light is shining!

God, you have made the nation greater—  
you have brought them abundant joy!

They celebrate in your presence  
as with the harvest celebrations,  
or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them,  
the weight on their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressors—

you have shattered it,  
as you did at the defeat of Midian.

For every boot that tramped in battle,  
every cloak that was dragged through blood,  
is now used as fuel for the fire.

For a child is born to us,

an heir is given us,  
upon whose shoulders  
dominion will rest.

This One shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God,  
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

This dominion, and this peace,  
will grow without end,

with David's throne and realm  
sustained with justice and fairness,  
now and forever.

The zeal of God Almighty will accomplish it!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

“What child is this”

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems  
sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Refrain**

**Refrain: This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels  
sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and  
myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Refrain**

## MIDDLE READING

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes.  
What I know  
is that it is more ancient  
than imagining.  
That it travels  
across an astounding expanse  
to reach us.  
That it loves  
searching out  
what is hidden  
what is lost  
what is forgotten  
or in peril  
or in pain.  
That it has a fondness  
for the body  
for finding its way  
toward flesh  
for tracing the edges  
of form  
for shining forth  
through the eye,  
the hand,  
the heart.

“HOW THE LIGHT COMES” BY JAN RICHARDSON

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes,  
but that it does.  
That it will.  
That it works its way  
into the deepest dark  
that enfolds you,  
though it may seem  
long ages in coming  
or arrive in a shape  
you did not foresee.  
And so  
may we this day  
turn ourselves toward it.  
May we lift our faces  
to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies  
to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open  
and open more  
and open still  
to the blessed light  
that comes.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Middle Reading fills the role of a Bible reading, but it doesn't come from the Bible. It is our way of trying to listen for God's ongoing word as it is spoken outside the limits of the Bible. Most often, we turn to contemporary poets for this reading.*

*Jan Richardson is an artist, writer, and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. Residing in Florida, she serves as director of The Wellspring Studio, LLC, and has traveled widely as a retreat leader and conference speaker.*

## HYMN

“O little town of Bethlehem”

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love  
Oh morning stars together, proclaim thy holy birth.  
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**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!**

## AN UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Creative team: Joy Scime, Phil Knoerzer, special appearance by Michele Costa plus readers from the parish and choir.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

## HYMN

“Angels we have heard on high”

**Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**See him in a manger laid  
whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Now would be a great time to add a comment to the Live Stream!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Every room, every house, no place for us here,  
Coldest night, weary heart, and this baby so near.  
Love will find a way; your promise keeps us safe  
On this quiet, silent night, this holy night.

Every fear gone tonight, now you're safe in my arms,  
And I sing, little lamb, of all of your charms,  
Cause love has found a way, and your promise keeps us safe,  
On this quiet, silent night, this holy night.

"THIS HOLY NIGHT" WORDS BY ROSE ASPINALL

MUSIC BY MARY McDONALD

ALTO SOLOIST: LAURA SCHLEICHER

"Alleluia!" Hear the angels sing.  
Alleluia to the new born King!

Go to sleep little one, holy child, rest tonight.  
Prince of peace, holy Son, God's heavenly Light!  
Love will make a way and your promise keeps us safe,  
On this quiet, silent night, this holy night.

*Your financial support is not only a practical necessity. It can also be a very meaningful symbolic gesture, expressing your gratitude for the blessings in your life and your hope for health in the world. You can place cash or a check in the big blue urn at the head of the aisle or [donate online here](#), or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256. You can also get there by scanning this QR code:*



*This Eucharistic Prayer was written by former seminarian, Katie Smith, and adapted by Matt Lincoln.*

*From Deutsche Messe by F. P. Schubert*

## HOLY COMMUNION

Rejoice for Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, is born!

**Emmanuel! God is with us.**

Offer your hearts to God in gladness.

**We offer our hearts filled with joy and hope.**

Give thanks and praise to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God our Creator, it is right to give you thanks, for you are the source of all that is.

**You made yourself visible to us in Jesus Christ, so we might know you and recognize your image reflected in our own faces and the faces of one another.**

Although we are only a small part of your vast creation, we join our voices together with all your creatures to sing your praises.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, \_\_\_\_\_ hea - ven and earth are

full, \_\_\_\_\_ full of your glo - ry. Ho -

Continued on next page

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless'd is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

At the following words, everyone lifts their plate and cup communion elements into view.

Blessed are you, God of all goodness, source of light and life. **We thank you for sending your child Jesus among us to be born of a woman.** In gratitude for the love you have given through Christ, we present to you these gifts of bread and wine, made from the goodness of your creation and the work of human hands.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread and said, **"This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."** After supper, in the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

In the mystery of this communion we remember Jesus, who lived, died, and was raised for us all. Through Jesus may we recognize our creator at work in us and in the world. Loving God, we ask that you send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts we offer from your creation. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us also, that we may embody your love in the world. **May we be so filled with joy and hope that our lives shall shine bright with the light of your love for the whole world to see.** All this we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we offer you our prayers, our praise, and our thanks. **Amen.**

*We are following a pattern of using an alternative interpretation of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks and then using the traditional Prayer Book version for a week or two, and then going to a different interpretation for a few weeks, then the Prayer Book version for a week or two, etc.*

Now, as Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

**Were not our hearts burning within us as we walked along the road?**

#### RECEIVING COMMUNION

*During a moment of quiet, all receive their bread and wine while remaining where they are. In a few minutes, someone will come by with a tray to collect your cup.*

#### MUSICAL REFLECTION

##### HYMN

**Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

“SILENT NIGHT”

**Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

#### PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray:

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and remembering the body of Christ,  
which has been broken for the life of the world.  
Now give us grace to trust that we are  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed.  
Give us the courage to proclaim your love to the world,  
and to continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*This version of the Lord's Prayer is what many of us grew up learning. It is also the version shared at the end of many 12 Step meetings. Although it is important to stay fresh and engaged by the words of our prayers, it is also important that we as individuals are part of a great cloud of witnesses who have been inspired to turn to God in prayer throughout the ages.*

*\*Jesus revealed a new, personal sense of relationship with God by addressing God as something like "Papa." Always feel free to use your most meaningful name for God in saying the Lord's Prayer.*

*The Prayer for the Road by Steven Shakespeare is from his book Prayers for an Inclusive Church.*

## BLESSING

May the kindness of the animals, the joy of the angels, and the amazement of the shepherds be yours this Christmas, and the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who animates and guides us be with you now and always. **Amen.**

## HYMN

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

## DISMISSAL

Take your leave, trusting that we are made one in Christ, to shine in the world with God's light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

"REGENT SQUARE" (FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN/ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY)  
BY EDWIN C. JOHNSON

*Our spiritual  
practice is renewed  
as we leave here  
and begin again to  
work the promises  
of the covenant.*

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Wonder Love & Praise; Lift Every Voice and Sing II) is reproduced under a license from RiteSong. All rights reserved.*

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Ansie Baird - in memory of Clara Silverman & Margaret De Morinni  
The Barry Family - in memory of Pete Mairs  
Joseph Chamberlain - in memory of Donald & Betty Chamberlain, Timothy Chamberlain, Donald & Molly Lindquist  
Sally Ann Cook - in memory of Helen M. & Harry F. Cook  
Judy Fanning - in memory of Carolyn Fanning  
Claire Fisher - for Charlie Fadale  
Judy Fisher - in memory of Jane & Pete Peterson  
Dan Galley - in memory of Joseph E. and Vivian Potter Galley  
Arlene Grasso - in memory of Margaret & Lawrence Aroneseno  
Ginx Graves - in memory of my mother, Gerrie Graves  
Susie & Richard Green - in memory of Irv, Bettsie, Judy, Frank, Iris, and Macy  
Jane Haenle - in memory of grandson, Paul Skillern & niece, Susan Senn  
Shirley Hudders  
Catherine & Matthew Lincoln - in memory of Eugene M. Carr, Jr.  
Gretchen Lodick - in honor & memory of Michael Lodick  
Judy & Chris Miller - in memory of Jim Barbee, Nina and Henry Cornell, Nan and Will Clarkson, & Pete Mairs  
Deanne & Nelson Montgomery - in loving memory of Ernie Robert and Margaret  
Alphonso & Marcia O'Neil-White - in memory of Georgianna White and Evelyn O'Neil  
Lenore Pawlowski - in memory of Sharon Pawlowski & Ceil Pawlowski  
Julie & Frank Rizzo - Albert Wayne Keller & Sandra Ann Keller  
Liz Schreier - in memory of Clare Silverman, Julia Marks, & Susan Hoyt

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP HELPERS NEEDED

If you are planning to attend the 10:30am Sunday service in person and would like to be involved with reading from the altar or greeting people at the door and helping direct them with what to expect, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fafa629a3f58-trinity2> If you are interested in being more involved but aren't interested in either of these roles, you can also plan on helping during services by bringing a device to connect to Facebook viewers and respond to comments during the service.

### SERVICES @TRINITY

In the interest of staying connected and sharing our spiritual life together, here's our service lineup:

**SUNDAY MORNING @10:30** In-person worship while live streaming on Facebook and YouTube. The Sunday online Live Stream service remains accessible as a video recording on Trinity's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages after the service is over.

**TRINITY @7** Sunday night @7pm featuring poetry and jazz, in person as well as on Zoom.

Trinity @7 will not meet on Dec 26 and Jan 2. We'll gather again on Jan 9.

**WEDNESDAY @NOON** offering prayer and holy conversation. This service is now both in person and on Zoom.

**THURSDAY @7** offering the wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery. Both in person and on Zoom.

Click here to [find the readings](#).

Email your request for a [link to the Zoom worship services here](#).

The church is open by appointment for private prayer or meditation. Contact our parish administrator, Colleen O'Neill, at [coneill@trinitybuffalo.org](mailto:coneill@trinitybuffalo.org) to schedule an appointment.



Trinity is an Episcopal Church in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania.

 Facebook: [@Trinitybuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/Trinitybuffalo)

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**Meghan Arnold, Caretaker**  
**Sarah Caputi, Caretaker**  
**Jay Mpelezos, Caretaker**

**Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner**

## VESTRY

Judy Atkinson-Miller, Senior Warden  
Kayla Kisenwether, Junior Warden  
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Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk  
John Alduino  
Erickson Contreras  
Judy Fitzgerald  
Edward Fries  
Karen Hall  
Jane Kearns  
Tom Owen  
JoAnne Sundell

## CHOIR MEMBERS

Laura Munson, Section Leader  
Cheryl Fisher  
Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick  
Christina Kinney  
Suzanne Fatta, Section Leader  
Gretchen Brand  
Sue Doherty  
Laura Schleicher  
Carol Case Siracuse  
John Clayton, Section Leader  
Steve Shanley  
Brandon Mecklenburg, Section Leader  
Tom Owen  
Ignacio Villa

## TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

**Greeters:** Christian Eshelman, Dan Galley, Paul Kochmanski, Phoebe McKay  
**Liturgical Assistant:** Leslie Charlier  
**Readers:** Joanne Sundell, Teresa Maciocha  
**Guest Musicians:** Claire Fisher, violin; Nancy Baun, cello; Harry Fackelman, soprano sax;  
John Hasselback, III, trumpet and flugelhorn  
**Counter:** John Alduino

## All services are in person AND online:

**Sunday @10:30am** Includes communion at an open table

**Sunday @7:00pm** An encounter with God through poetry, jazz, and meditation

Trinity @7 will not meet on Dec 26 and Jan 2. We'll gather again on Jan 9.

**Wednesday @Noon** Rite 2 communion and coffee

**Thursday @7pm** 12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality