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.
OPENING HYMN

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
see, 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,
o! 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

Continued on next page

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.
I bid you pray for 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,* who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

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.

*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

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.

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.

“I cannot tell you how the light comes” by Jan Richardson

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, 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,
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;
keep, 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**

*“This Holy Night” Words by Rose Aspinall  
Music by Mary McDonald  
Alto Soloist: Laura Schleicher*

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.

"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.

**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.

---

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

From Deutsche Messe by F. P. Schubert

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:

---

Continued on next page
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.**
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.

**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.
**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! 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.”

---

The music in this service used with permission to podcast/stream/reproduce from Church Publishing (Hymnal 1982; 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](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 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 to schedule an appointment.
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