



A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Trinity's gathered community!

We are together on-site and online!

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.

If you are at Trinity in person, please maintain appropriate distance and wear your mask, considering the fact that some of us may not be fully vaccinated or may have other vulnerabilities. We will celebrate Holy Communion as we have all year, with all participants holding their own bread and wine during the prayers and receiving communion in their seats. In this way, 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.

PRELUDE

"AU BORD D'UN RUISSEAU" (AT THE BROOK) BY RENÉ DE BOISDEFFRE, OP. 52

INVITATION TO CENTERING, CHORAL INTROIT

"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.*

*On this quiet, silent night, this holy night.
"Alleluia!" Hear the angels sing.
Alleluia to the new born King!*

*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,*

*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.*

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.

*Cover image:
Nativity, in an initial
P, by Don Silvestro
dei Gherarducci— in
the public domain*

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 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.

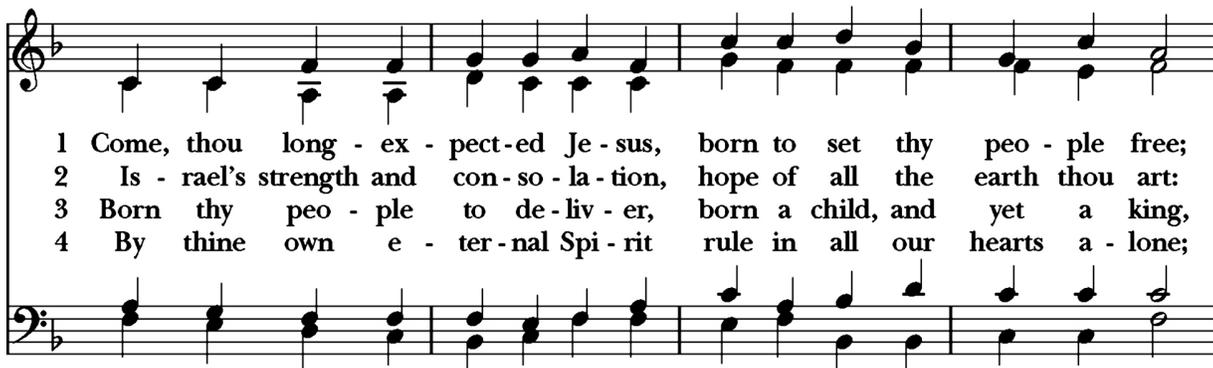
I bid you pray for the brokenhearted, for those who have lost hope, and those who have lost loved ones.

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.

CAROL I

“Come thou long expected Jesus”



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Stuttgart, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;
from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom.

The Spirit of God will rest on you:
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of counsel and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and reverence for God.

You will delight in obeying God,
and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay.

You will treat poor people with fairness
and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden.

With a single word you will strike down tyrants;
with your decrees you will execute evil people.

Justice will be the belt around your waist;
faithfulness will gird you up.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the lion cub will graze together,
and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear;
their young will lie down together;
the lion will eat hay like the ox.

The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,
and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.

There will be no harm,
no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain;
for as water fills the sea,
so the land will be filled with knowledge of God.

On that day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world; nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.

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

Thanks be to God.

CAROL 2

"Carol of the Bells" by M. Leontovich

*Hark! How the bells, sweet silver bells,
All seem to say, "Throw cares away."
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer,
To young and old, meek and the bold
Ding, dong, that is their song with joyful ring all caroling,
One seems to hear, words of good cheer,
From everywhere, filling the air.
O, how they pound, raising the sound,
O'er hill and dale, telling their tale,
Gayly they ring, while people sing
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here!
Merry Christmas! On on they send, on without end
Their joyful tone to every home.*

*The Bible readings
are taken from
The Inclusive Bible:
The First Egalitarian
Translation by
Priests for Equality.*

LESSON 2

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Thanks be to God.

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.

CAROL 3

“Lo, how a Rose e’re blooming”

1 Lo, how a Rose e’er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah ’twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se’s lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God’s love a - right, she bore to
 Both hu - man and true God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940* Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

LESSON 3

FROM THE "GOLDEN LEGEND," REGARDING MARY'S BETROTHAL TO JOSEPH

When Mary was in her fourteenth year and it was time for her to be married, the high priest was uncertain about how to proceed. So he went inside the Holy of Holies to consult the Lord. Presently a voice sounded from the Holies for all to hear. It said: "Each unmarried but marriageable man of the house of David is to bring a branch to the altar. One of these branches will bloom and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove will perch upon its tip, according to the prophecy of Isaiah. The man to whom this branch belongs is, beyond all doubt, the one who is to be the virgin's spouse."

Joseph, of the house of David, was among the other men, but it seemed incongruous to him that a man of his advanced age should take so tender a young woman to wife, and he alone withheld his branch when the others placed theirs on the altar. So it was that nothing happened as the divine voice had predicted, and the high priest thought to consult the Lord a second time. The voice responded that the only man who had not brought his branch was the one to whom the virgin was to be espoused. Therefore Joseph brought his branch forward, it flowered at once, and a dove came from heaven and perched upon it. So it was clear to all that Joseph was to be Mary's husband.

Once the espousals were accomplished, Joseph went back to his home city of Bethlehem to get his house ready and to make the necessary arrangements for the wedding. Mary, on the other hand, returned to her parents' home in Nazareth, together with seven young women of her own age, whom the high priest had assigned to her because of what the miracle had shown. And in those days the angel Gabriel appeared to her as she prayed, and announced to her that she was to be the mother of the Son of God.

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

Thanks be to God.

CAROL 4

"Gaudete" Traditional arranged by Michael Burkhardt

*Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine, Gaudete!
(Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!)*

*Now the time has come at last bringing joy and gladness;
Time foretold by ages past, healing earth's deep sadness.*

*Nature marvels at the sight, earth looks on in wonder;
For the Lord of Love and light rends the heavens asunder.*

*Christ is born; Emanuel, hope of every nation!
Therefore let us sing noel with the whole creation!*

LESSON 4

"THE RISK OF BIRTH" BY MADELEINE L'ENGLE

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn-
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn-
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

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

Thanks be to God.

The "Golden Legend" was written by Jacobus di Voragine, bishop of Genoa, Italy during the 12th century. He drew on many sources to compile background information for the many feast days celebrating the lives of saints and important events in the life of Christ. It was used by Medieval and Renaissance artists to give them details to depict in their paintings. Much of the content is regarded as legendary and not historical. It is nevertheless fascinating and often inspiring.

Madeleine L'Engle (1918–2007) was an American writer of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and young adult fiction, including A Wrinkle in Time and its sequels. Her books for adults include The Irrational Season and The Summer of the Great-grandmother. Her writings reflect both her Christian faith and her strong interest in modern science.

CAROL 5

“A stable lamp is lighted”



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall
 3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The



glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,



And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry;
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,



And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us



A stall be - come a shrine. _____ 2 This
 To pave his king - dom come. _____ 3 Yet
 God's love re - fused a - gain. _____ 4 But
 The worlds are rec - on - ciled. _____



Words: © Richard Wilbur (b. 1921)
 Music: *Andújar*, David Hurd (b. 1950)

76. 76. 66. 76

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.

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

CAROL 6

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator
Down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thy aid.
Star in the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

LESSON 5

A Milkweed

Anonymous as cherubs
Over the crib of God,
White seeds are floating
Out of my burst pod.
What power had I
Before I learned to yield?
Shatter me, great wind:
I shall possess the field.

CAROL 7

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
Good will toward men! Peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

"Brightest and Best" arranged by Shawn Kirchner

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker, and Monarch, and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield him in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

"TWO VOICES IN A MEADOW" BY RICHARD WILBUR

A Stone

As casual as cow-dung
Under the crib of God,
I lie where chance would have me,
Up to the ears in sod.
Why should I move? To move
Befits light desire.
The sill of Heaven would founder,
Did such as I aspire.

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

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST" BY G.B. PERGOLES

Richard Wilbur (1921 – 2017) was an American poet and literary translator. He was appointed the second Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress in 1987 and received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry twice, in 1957 and 1989.

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 to be reminded 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.

BLESSING

Now, may the Holy Spirit,
enfold us with love;
indwell our homes with joy;
build this community and this city in peace;
And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us,
and who animates and guides us be with you now and always. **Amen.**

CAROL 8

“SOON AND VERY SOON”

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Alleluia, alleluia! We're going to see the King!

No more cryin' there. We are going to see the King.
Alleluia, alleluia! We're going to see the King!

No more dyin' there. We are going to see the King.
Alleluia, alleluia! We're going to see the King!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Alleluia, alleluia! We're going to see the King!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

TODAY our Lessons & Carols service is being combined with the Greening of the Church. Join in for the transformation of the church as we light the trees and spread the greens. The cleaning of the church, such as brass polishing and window decorating, wreath hanging and more will also be held on this day. All hands are needed; the more the merrier and the lighter the load! Enjoy a light lunch to celebrate work well done.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Many parishioners wish to donate to the decorating of the church at Christmas. This is gratefully accepted. To facilitate this, you can use the flower envelope found in the church pews or donate electronically [here](#) by **TODAY**. Thank you for helping make Trinity the beautiful inviting place that it is with both the gifts of your presence and the gifts you donate.

ADVENT 2021: JOURNEYING BACK INTO COMMUNITY

Come explore stories of journeying from exile and isolation back into community through discussion and reflection on both Old and New Testament passages on Tuesday evenings @7pm with Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke. **Tuesday, December 21 @7pm**, is our last evening for the Advent program. We will look at some passages from the Gospel of Matthew to explore how our journey through exile can bring us back to our home and community. You are invited to join Tim and Jeff on Tuesdays @7pm using this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONGlNUUowZz09>

Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk

Email Jeffrey Tooke at jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com for more information.

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL WORSHIP WITH AN UPSIDE-DOWN PAGEANT!

December 24 @3pm, in person or online, the same way we do Sunday morning these days. It will be complete with favorite Christmas hymns, Holy Communion and singing Silent Night by candlelight. This worship service will be available to watch later on both [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) if you can't come to church or watch online live at 3.

Note - This will be Trinity's only Christmas service this year.

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 to schedule an appointment.

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

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www.trinitybuffalo.org • (716) 852-8314

371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

STAFF

The Reverend Matthew R. Lincoln, Rector
mlincoln@trinitybuffalo.org
(716) 852-8314 ext. 14

**Krista Seddon, Director of Ensembles;
Pianist**
krista@kristaseddon.com
www.kristaseddon.com

Paul Cena, Organist and Choir Director
prcena@verizon.net

Jeffrey Tooke, Cyber Sacristan

**Colleen O'Neill, Parish Administrator and
Director of Children's Ministries**
coneill@trinitybuffalo.org
(716) 852-8314 ext. 10

Jennifer Frey, Office Volunteer
clerical@trinitybuffalo.org
(716) 852-8314 ext. 19

Rich Mpezos, Facility Manager
rmpezos@trinitybuffalo.org
(716) 852-8314 ext. 24

Meghan Arnold, Caretaker
Sarah Caputi, Caretaker
Jay Mpezos, Caretaker

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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: Bruce Nisbet, Joanne Sundel
Readers: Kayla Kisenwether, Davis Bradley, Sally Cook,
Patti Nisbet, Alphonso O'Neil-White
Guest Musicians: Claire Fisher, violin; Nancy Baun, cello
Counters: Kayla Kisenwether, Joanne Sundell

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