A Service of Holy Communion

December 26, 2021

First Sunday After Christmas
Welcome to Trinity’s gathered community!
We are together on-site and online!

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.

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

“The First Noel” arranged by Ivan Frazier

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

"Hark! the herald angels sing"

1 Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Beth-lehem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)
First Reading
Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will joyfully exult in God, who is the joy of my soul! My God clothed me with a robe of deliverance and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, the way a bridegroom puts on a turban and a bride bedecks herself with jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and a garden brings its seeds to blossom, so the Highest God makes justice sprout, and praise spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake, I will not be silent; for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest—not until her integrity shines like the dawn, her deliverance like a flaming torch. The nations will see your vindication, and the rulers your splendor; you will have a new name that God's mouth will bestow. You will be a garland of beauty in God's hands, a solemn crown worn by your God.

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

Echo

“Let all mortal flesh keep silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Words: Liturgy of St. James, paraphrased. Music: Picardy, French Carol, 16th cent.; melody from Chansons populaires des Provinces de France, 1860, harm. after The English Hymnal, 1906

Middle Reading

The birds they sang
At the break of day
Start again
I heard them say
Don't dwell on what has passed away
Or what is yet to be

“Anthem” by Leonard Cohen
Ah, the wars they will be fought again
The holy dove, she will be caught again
Bought and sold, and bought again
The dove is never free
Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

We asked for signs
The signs were sent
The birth betrayed
The marriage spent
Yeah, and the widowhood
Of every government
Signs for all to see

I can't run no more
With that lawless crowd
While the killers in high places
Say their prayers out loud
But they've summoned, they've summoned up
A thundercloud
They're going to hear from me

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

You can add up the parts
But you won't have the sum
You can strike up the march
There is no drum
Every heart, every heart
To love will come
But like a refugee

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

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

Thanks be to God.

**ECHO**

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.
The four Gospels hold the core of Christian spiritual wisdom, reflecting the earliest stories and images of Jesus. Like all Scripture, they are not definitive prescriptions but narrative stories requiring endless interpretation.

The sermon invites your curiosity and thoughtfulness about the theme of worship, and is intended to evoke your thoughts rather than direct them. A recording of the sermon is posted to the parish website each week, usually by Tuesday.

This affirmation, written by Matt Lincoln, is an adaptation of the Nicene Creed. Like the creed on which it is based, it is an expression of faith intended as a symbol of solidarity with other Christians throughout history but not as a pledge of allegiance required for membership. Participate at your own level of comfort.

**Gospel Reading**

John 1:1-18

In the beginning, there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind. The Word was coming into the world—was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will—but born of God. And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory—the favor and position a parent gives an only child—filled with grace, filled with truth.

John testified by proclaiming, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.’ ” Of this One's fullness we've all had a share—gift on top of gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, the Gift—and the Truth—came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the Only Begotten, ever at Abba's side, who has revealed God to us.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Echo**

“Let all mortal flesh keep silence”

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

**Sermon**

The Rev. Matt Lincoln

**Musical Reflection**

**Affirmation of Faith**

We trust in God, who is the source of all creation, seen and unseen.

We trust that God's divine life is conceived by God and was born in the human form of Jesus, through his mother Mary. In his life, death and resurrection, Jesus embodied God's self-giving love for the world and God's will to regenerate life, and to reclaim us from the oblivion of death.
We trust that the Spirit of God is present in this world, in our hearts, and within the community of faith, guiding us into all truth and inspiring us to love as we have been loved, to create as we have been created. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYER
Intercessory prayer in group worship is a moment to ask God’s healing and blessing for people in general, and also in the particularity of this moment. This prayer comes to us from the Iona Community.

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**
Let us pray.

Gracious God, as we bring before you the hopes and anxieties, the sadness and celebration of our lives and the world we share, we offer them with the hope that comes with new life, trusting that you are doing more than we can ask or imagine.

Among the poor,
**among the proud,**
among the persecuted,
**among the privileged,**
Christ is coming,
**coming to make all things new.**

In the private house,
**in the market place,**
in the wedding feast,
**in the judgement hall,**
Christ is coming,
**coming to make all things new.**

With a gentle touch,
**with an angry word,**
with a clear conscience,
**with burning love,**
Christ is coming,
**coming to make all things new.**

That God’s reign might be manifest,
**that the world might believe,**
that the powerful might stumble,
**that the humble might be raised,**
Christ is coming,
**coming to make all things new.**

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Within us,  
without us,  
among us,  
before us,  
in this place,  
in every place,  
for this time,  
for all time,  
Christ is coming,  
coming to make all things new.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

“Born in the Night” by Geoffrey Ainger  
Soloist: Laura Schleicher

Born in the night, Mary’s Child, a long way from your home;  
Coming in need, Mary’s Child, born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary’s Child, your face lights up our way;  
Light of the world, Mary’s Child, dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary’s Child, you tell us God is good;  
Prove it is true, Mary’s Child, go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary’s Child, you’re coming soon to reign;  
King of the earth, Mary’s Child, walk in our streets again.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.  
You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.  
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing for joy:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might, heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Bless’d is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

From Deutsche Messe by F. P. Schubert
Continued on next page
At the following words, everyone lifts their plate and cup communion elements into view.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: **“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”** After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: **“Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**
**Rising, you restored our life.**
**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. **Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love.** Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.
**Blessed are you now and for ever. 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?**

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*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.*

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.

*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.*

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*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.*
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.

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, & 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.

Continued on next page
1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed;
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Cransham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)
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
“Carol of the Bells” arranged by John Dixon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH
Join Trinity friends Sunday, January 2, following 10:30 worship, for brunch at Mexican restaurant Taqueria Ranchos Dos. Located at 445 Delaware Ave (between Edward and Virginia streets), the restaurant is north 1 1/2 blocks walking distance from the church. Street parking on Delaware. No reservations required! Just come. Or even better, invite someone to join you. We’ll gather in the back dining room to enjoy traditional Mexican dishes in a colorful, welcoming space in the good company of one another. Hasta la vista!

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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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 tonight or 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