



A Service of Communion

The First Sunday of Christmas

12.29.2019

Children are a beloved part of the Trinity Community. If you have children, they are welcome to participate in any of several ways: They can stay quietly occupied with you in the pew; and for children under 5, if you don't want to keep them with you, please feel free to utilize the professionally staffed nursery. Also, at the rear of the church, you can find a room with a rocking chair and a changing table. Most Sundays during the school year, children ages 5 and over are invited to take part in Creator Quest, our children's program during worship. It is not happening today, but will resume next week.

This centering prayer is "Hymn to the Nameless One" by Dorothy Walters.

Cover Photo: "Plum Pudding" by Matt Lincoln.

You are welcome here today and every day!

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. Please feel free to receive communion and participate in the service as fully as you want to. 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.

Name tags are not required, but they sure help! You'll find sticky tags and markers on a table in the red carpet area near the entrance.

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

If you would like to receive more information about Trinity Church, please sign our guest book, located near the entrance. Everyone is welcome to enjoy refreshments and conversation after worship. Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church and a member parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York of the Episcopal Church in the United States, and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide.

PRELUDE

SEASONAL TUNES, PAUL CENA, ORGAN

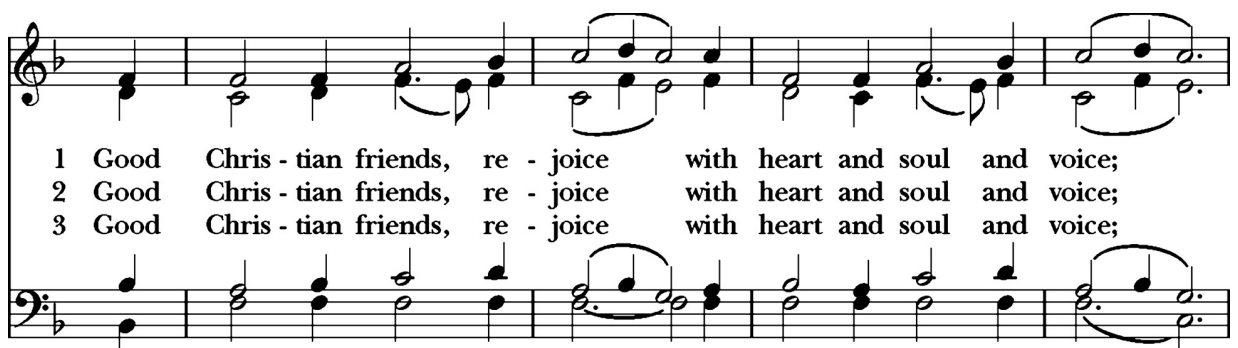
CENTERING PRAYER

Now as the year swings down,
and the darkness encloses
even the smallest bird,
the largest animal,
and we too enter the hour
when everything is falling once more
into the twilight
of not knowing,
what we ask is that
you be with us,

not as a pillar of fire
nor a blaze across
the heavens,
but like water
at rest in a pitcher
which catches the morning light
and is filled
with its own radiance.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE"



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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.

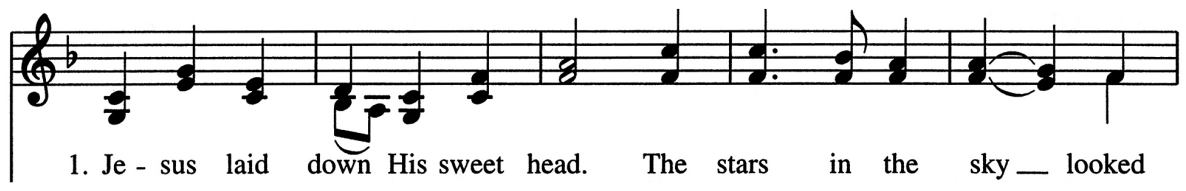
Both Bible readings are taken from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality.

ECHO


"AWAY IN A MANGER"



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord



1. Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky — looked



1. down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

MIDDLE READING

"LIGHT LOOKED DOWN" BY LAURENCE HOUSMAN

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 light.

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

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

"AWAY IN A MANGER"



2. The cat - tle are low-ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord



Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes, I love thee, Lord Je - sus, Look



down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.

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.

Laurence Housman (1865 – 1959) was an English playwright, writer, and illustrator.

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

“AWAY IN A MANGER”



3. Be near me, Lord Je-sus, I ask thee to stay Close by me for
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil-dren in
thy ten-der care, And fit us for heav-en to live with thee there.

SERMON

THE REV. DEACON ROSALEEN NOGLE

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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.

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.

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

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The Liturgist and the People pray this Advent Litany responsively. It comes to us from the Iona Community.

Encouraged by the remembrance of Christ's birth, we acknowledge and offer the hopes and fears that we bring with us. Please join together in offering these prayers by responding with the words in bold type.

O Christ, Son of God, yet born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

Jesus, Savior, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives and hear our prayer.

Glory to you for ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN

"ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

Although it looks a lot like an intermission, passing the peace is actually one of the earliest spiritual practices of Christian worship. By greeting one another in the assurance of God's peace, we all share in creating hospitality, and we represent to each other God's reconciling lo

Your financial support is not only a practical necessity. It can also be a very meaningful symbolic gesture, expressing your gratitude for all the blessings in your life and your hope for goodness in the world. You can make an offering by putting cash or a check in the collection plate, or you can use your smart phone. To initiate an online donation, text the word "give" to 716-221-8580.

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

All are welcome to receive Communion at Trinity Church. No Exceptions!

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing to live openly in the presence of God and one another as grateful people. Splendor and honor are yours God of all being, your power sustains, your endless love restores this broken world.

Always present with us, you bring patterns to the chaos, and fill our emptiness.

Christmas brings the dawn of hope.

The light of Christ kindles life in us, and leads us to walk in your light. .

This morning, our worship leader is a deacon, rather than a priest. Diaconal ministry is focused on exemplifying servant ministry, so deacons are not authorized to preside over the blessing of the bread and wine for communion. Thus that part of the service is omitted, and communion will be distributed from bread and wine that were blessed at an earlier celebration.

**Your Holy Spirit is fire in us,
your breath warms our hearts to love.**

As children of your redeeming purpose, we offer you our praise with Angels and Archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing your eternal glory:

*From Schubert's
Deutsche Messe*

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 -

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**God, who cares for us,
The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe.
Let kindness, justice and love shine in our world.
Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.
Give us the food and the hope we need for today.
Forgive us our wrongdoing
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.
Protect us from pride and from despair
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.
In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,
while worlds come and go.
Amen.**

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

We gather in a big circle all around the altar. Follow the people ahead of you and spread out around the perimeter of the rugs on on either side of the altar. If you wish to kneel to receive, use the kneelers, which are located near the pulpit and lectern. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. Should you choose not to receive the wine, fold your arms across your chest to let the chalice know that you do not wish to receive. **Ministers of Healing are available to pray with you near the side chapel during communion.**

This interpretation of the Lord's Prayer was written by British author, journalist, and activist, Monica Furlong (1930 – 2003).

As you come or go from communion, feel free to ask the Healers to pray with you for burdens that feel too heavy to carry alone or for thanksgivings that are too joyful to be contained by one person. The Healers are available near the side chapel.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

"Let us break bread together on our knees"



1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

1. sun, Oh___ Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). 2. me).

Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh___

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).

PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray:

Loving God,

as a mother feeds her children at the breast

you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:

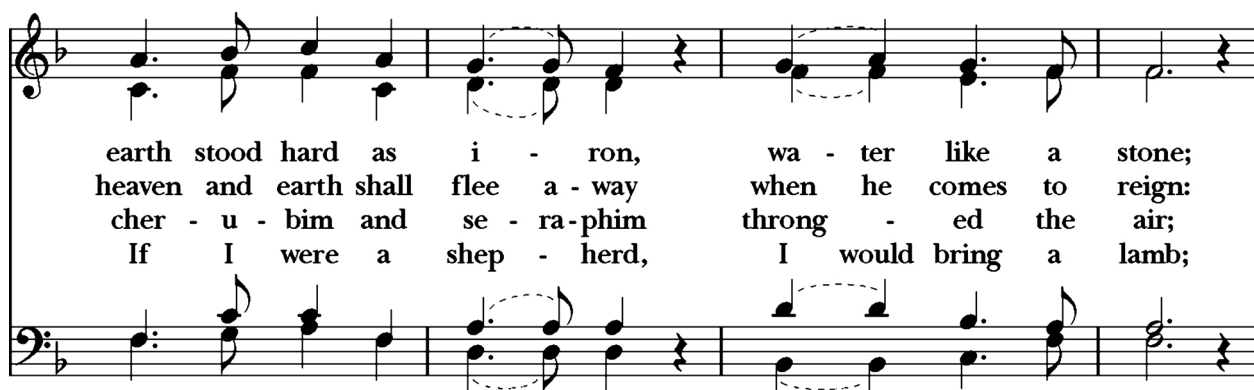
help us who have tasted your goodness

to grow in grace within the household of faith;


through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

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

DEACON'S DISMISSAL

The God of abundance has fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
God has united us
with Christ and one another;
and has made us one
with all God's people in heaven and on earth.

Now go forth
in the power of the Spirit,
to proclaim God's redeeming love to the world and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE" ARR. BY MATTHEW H. CORL

If you are visiting today, please stay for refreshments and fellowship after the service is over. Don't be surprised if someone introduces themselves to you and welcomes you to Trinity, but don't feel you need to wait for someone to do so either! Introduce yourself to anyone nearby. They will be glad to share any knowledge of the Trinity community that they can. In the red carpet area near the door, there is a table where you'll find a place to sign in and leave your name, address, phone number, and email address. Please sign in so we can keep you up to date on all the latest information about Trinity.

Music from Church Publishing (Hymnal 1982; Wonder Love & Praise; Lift Every Voice and Sing II) is reproduced under a license from RiteSong. Other music is reproduced under OneLicense A-700776.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that there will be no Trinity @7 tonight.

Also note there will be no Wednesday 11:00am service on January 1.

12th Night Synchronicity

Come join our friends from the Jung Center Buffalo for a potluck dinner party on Sunday, **January 5**, 5:30pm. Then, Trinity @7 will celebrate all things epiphanic in the Chapel. Musician and storyteller Owen Ó Súilleabháin will shed some light on Celtic traditions of Epiphany and more modern takes. Suggested donation at the door: \$10, includes refreshments after the performance.

Social Media

Trinity has active pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. You can help attract new followers from outside the parish by following Trinity's social media pages yourself. "Liking" an individual post is fine and you should always do that, but following the pages on social media will help spread the word about Trinity's activities and events.

Make a Joyful Noise

Trinity choir is always ready to welcome new members. If you love to sing, please join us. You do not need to read music or have any musical training, just a creative side that wants to express itself with music. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 8:30. If you'd like more information, speak with Paul at Trinity or call him at 998-7584.

12-Step Meetings

In partnership with the Nickel City Clubhouse, Trinity hosts 12 meetings every week in the basement of Trinity Center. The clubhouse space is accessible through the door under the awning on Delaware Ave. You can find the schedule at: www.trinitybuffalo.org/nickel-city.

**FRESH
VOICES**
@TRINITY

Seeking the
Sacred in Our
Broken World



Seeking the sacred through science with

Science Mike

Mike McHargue, author of *Finding God In the Waves*,
podcaster and speaker who travels the world helping people
understand the science of life's most profound experiences

AND

Nicholas Silvestri, MD, FAAN

Department of Neurology, Jacobs School of Medicine

Saturday, January 11, 2020 | 7:30 p.m.

Trinity Church | 371 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY

\$20 Admission | To reserve tickets, visit TrinityBuffalo.org



#TrinityBuffalo



National Day of Racial Healing

January 15, 2020



Guest Speaker
Richard Rothstein

Elim Christian Fellowship
70 Chalmers Ave, Buffalo, NY 14214

6pm ~ Reception & Entertainment
7pm ~ Lecture, followed by a
Book Signing

A powerful and disturbing history of residential segregation in America. While the road forward is far from clear, there is no better history of this troubled journey.

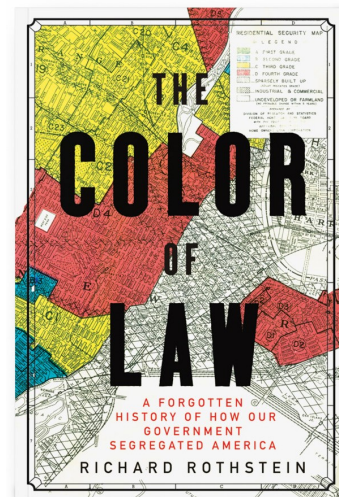
New York Times Book Review

Sponsored by:

- ♦ The Episcopal Diocese Commission to Dismantle Racism & Discrimination
- ♦ Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable
- ♦ National Federation of Just Communities (NFJC)
- ♦ Temple Beth Zion
- ♦ WNY Area Labor Federation (AFL-CIO)
- ♦ Buffalo Niagara Community Reinvestment Coalition
- ♦ NAACP ~ Buffalo Chapter
- ♦ Elim Christian Fellowship
- ♦ The John R. Oishei Foundation

Books are available for \$10

Please go to info@racialequitybuffalo.org to order a book. Books will also be available after the lecture.





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Instagram: @trinity.church.buffalo
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www.trinitybuffalo.org • 716-852-8314

Trinity is an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western New York.

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Susana Bernhardt, Clerk

Judy Atkinson Miller

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CHOIR MEMBERS

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Cheryl Fisher

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Christina Kinney

Suzanne Fatta, *Section Leader*

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Sue Doherty

Mimi Dow

Carol Case Siracuse

John Clayton, *Section Leader*

Peter Dow

Dan Galley

Steve Shanley

Nicholas Williams, *Section Leader*

Peter Curtis

Tom Owen

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Greeter: Joanne Sundell

Liturgist: Sharon Rogers

Readers: Carol Case Siracuse, Emily Carlin, John Ramsey

Chalicers: Carol Case Siracuse, Emily Carlin

Healing Ministry: Joseph Chamberlain

Altar Guild: Tracy Draksic

Counters: Tom Owen, Joseph Chamberlain

Sunday @10:30am

Includes communion at an open table

Sunday @7:00pm

An encounter with God through poetry, jazz, and meditation

Wednesday @11am

Rite 2 communion and coffee - returns January 8, 2020

Thursday @7pm

12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality