



A Service of Holy Communion

Christmas Eve
12.24.2019 @3PM

You are welcome here today and every day!

This afternoon's service is, of course, special because of Christmas Eve. It is focused on telling the Christmas story in a way that is more than entertaining for kids. We want them to feel that they are going to see the Christ child themselves. They are invited to do so by imagining they are angels, animals, or shepherds. If you learned of this before you got here, perhaps you dressed your child accordingly. If not, we have some simple costumes that might help. Check at the door if you didn't already.

Throughout this booklet, you will find words intended for you to say aloud. They are in **bold face type**. Whether you are a visitor or a "regular," your presence is an offering, and you are a participant rather than a spectator. When it comes time for communion, please feel welcome to participate fully by coming forward with those around you to receive communion.

Children are always part of our worshipping community. On a typical Sunday, they are welcome to participate in any of several ways: They can stay with you in the pew; join the 5-12 year olds in the back of the church where we line up for the Creator Quest program, or for children 5 and under; 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. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Colleen O'Neill before or after services.

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. Children are welcome and encouraged to receive communion, as well. For smaller ones, feel free to break a piece of bread off and dip it in the wine for your child. 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.

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. 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.

*Cover image:
Photo: Virgin and
Child Plaque,
by Benedetto da
Maiano, from
the Met Store
online catalogue*

PRELUDE

SEASONAL TUNES, TRINITY ENSEMBLE

A WORD OF WELCOME

A CENTERING PRAYER FOR WELCOMING CHRISTMAS

*This centering
prayer is a poem
by Christina
Rossetti.*

Christmas hath a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

- 1 **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.*

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

- 5 **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

' TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE—BOTH: A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

HYMN

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

- 1 **Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.**
- 2 **Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 **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.**
- 4 **He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.**

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

As we get ready for the rest of the service, we acknowledge and offer the hopes and fears that we bring with us. Please pray 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.

From the first generation of Christians comes a symbolic act of hospitality, welcome and reconciliation. We invite one another into the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.

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.

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 ANTHEM

"SEE HIM BORN THE DIVINE CHRIST CHILD" TRAD. FRENCH ARR. BY IAN HIGGINSON

See him born the divine Christ child, sound forth the pipe and clash the cymbal,
See him born the divine Christ child, sing to welcome the Savior mild.

Prophets over four thousand years told us of this time of glory,
Prophets over four thousand years told us of this happy hour.

In a stable laid in straw lowly comes the Lord of heaven,
In a stable laid in straw comes to us the King of Kings.

Jesus, Lord of heaven most high, child so tiny in a manger,
Jesus, Lord of heaven most high, enter in our hearts and reign.

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Yes! It is right, because we love you, O God – because you first loved us. So it makes us joyful to give you thanks for being God. On this Christmas Eve, when we are so excited about the gifts under the tree, we remember that we receive Christmas gifts because of your gift to us, the greatest gift of all, Jesus, your Son. And so we join with St. Nicholas, St. Mary and St. Joseph, and with all the saints and angels in telling out your glory, as we sing,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed 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.

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of Baby Jesus, because in him, you became like us so that we could become like you. But in his life, he became so much more than our friend.

As he grew up, he taught us how to love you and love each other.

Continued on next page

When he had taught us all we could learn, we still needed more. For even though we know better, we hurt others, and we fear pain and death. So, for our sake, he gave himself up to die on the cross to rescue us from our selfishness, and so that we can live in him forever.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, **"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."**

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: **This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.**"

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness. As we receive this holy food, help us to know that you have given us the greatest Christmas gift of all, Jesus, your own Son; so that we can grow to be as generous to others as you are to us.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Life-giving God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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.**

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness, hail the new-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born king!

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.

**Jesus revealed
a new, intimate
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

Tonight Communion will be received at any one of three stations at the head of each aisle. Please stay to the right as you walk forward and back again by the same aisle. If you do not wish to receive wine, simply follow the person in front of you (rather than leaving the line) and walk past the Chalice (but you can smile at him or her if you want). Thank you.

Music During Communion

"KOPPANGEN" (HOLY NIGHT) BY PY BACKMAN/PERERIK MORAEUS

QUINTET MEMBERS:

LAURA MUNSON, CHRISTINA KINNEY, SOPRANOS

SUZANNE FATTA, ALTO

JOHN CLAYTON, TENOR

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS, BASS

*There is silence around me in the peaceful winter night,
From the church down in the valley I can see the candlelight.
And I stopped for a moment in this winter paradise
When I heard a choir singing through the darkness and the ice.
And the rays from the lights behind the window's vaulted frames
Have united the souls in hope that something great is waiting.
And I know that those who have left us here had the same thought as I.
We're like flames in the darkness and stars up in the sky.*

*And I can see how they sparkle and they fade before my eyes,
And the truth is coming closer like a wonder in disguise.
We are caught here a moment like an imprint of a hand
On an old and frosted window or a footprint in the sand.
For a while I'm eternal that's the only thing I know,
I am here and we share our dreams about our destination.
It is cold out here, and the snow is white but I'm warm deep inside.
I am warm 'cause I know that my faith will be my guide.*

*Now there is silence around me. I have heard those words again
In a hymn of grace and glory saying: "Nothing is in vain!"
I can sing and believe it, let the message reach the sky.
Oh silent night, let your promise never die!
And I long for the others, it is peaceful in the church.
He was born for a purpose and that's why we're here together.
Holy night, I feel like a child inside, and believe he was sent.
So I'm lighting a candle each Sunday in Advent.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

"O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

1

2

**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.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.**

Continued on next page

3

**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.**

4

**Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;**

**where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.**

5

**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!**

"ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

3

**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.***

2

**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.***

4

**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.***

"WHAT CHILD IS THIS?"

**1 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?**

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

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

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

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

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

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Symbolizing the deep and abiding truth that even one small flame can enlighten the gravest darkness, we light our hand candles as we share a beloved carol. We ask each person nearest an aisle candle to light their hand candle and pass the flame to those along their pew.

**1 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.**

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

**3 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.**

SENDING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Joy in our world, for you have come –
let us receive your love.
Joy in our hearts for you have arrived –
let us perceive your love.
Joy for us now as we leave this night –
let us each take your peace.**

**Let our hearts prepare you room
and may heaven and nature sing,
and may heaven and nature sing,
and may heaven and nature sing.
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.

CLOSING HYMN

“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

**Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

***Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

Refrain

**Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.**

**Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“CARILLON ON A UKRAINIAN BELL CAROL” BY GERALD NEAR

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

DONOR

Bailey Kline Family
Ansie Baird
Sally Cook
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Thomas H. Owen
Linda Schineller

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF

Robert & Margaret Plonka

Our parents & grandparents
Gerrie Graves
Bettsie & Irving Barrett, Judy Silver, Connie Hammond, Frank Green
Loved Ones
Daisy Estelle Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Seegert, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Keane
Jim Barbee
Don & Ruth Owen
Marissa Schineller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trinity's Worship Schedule for the rest of the year:

Tonight - 10:30pm service - Candlelight Mass

As usual, there will be **no services** held on Christmas Day, including the weekly Wednesday 11am service.

Thursday, December 26 7:00pm service - 12 Steps@Trinity based on 12-step spirituality

Please note that on Sunday, December 29, there will be no Creator Quest during the 10:30 service and no Trinity @7. 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.

Next Fresh Voices

Seeking the Sacred in our Broken World event: A Conversation with Science Mike on Seeking the Sacred Through Science, Saturday, **January 11**, 7:30pm. Mike McHargue (Science Mike) has a bestselling book, Finding God in the Waves, which has helped thousands of people navigate faith transitions. Mike's the host of the weekly podcast "Ask Science Mike," and co-founded The Liturgists. He has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *NPR*, *The Huffington Post*, and scores of other notable publications. Mike is an in-demand speaker appearing all over the world—including appearances at Google and MIT. Mike's next book *You are a Miracle (and a Pain in the Ass)* comes out on April 28, 2020. Tickets are \$20 and available by visiting Trinitybuffalo.org or Eventbrite.com. Special note: If you don't like to drive after dark, the Fresh Voices Planning Team is arranging Science Mike drivers. Please sign up on the "Science Mike Carpool" clipboard which will be with the Science Mike ticket sellers after the 10:30 Sunday service and the Trinity @7 Service. Someone will get in touch with you about picking you up!

National Day of Racial Healing

January 15, Richard Rothstein, author of The Color of Law, will be presenting at Elim Christian Fellowship 70 Chalmers Ave, Buffalo, NY 14214 at 6pm for reception and 7pm lecture followed by a book signing. Books are available for \$10 at info@racialequitybuffalo.org Books will also be available after the lecture.



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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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VESTRY

Chris Schaeffer, Senior Warden

Teresa Maciocha, Junior Warden

Bing Sherrill, Treasurer

Susana Bernhardt, Clerk

Judy Atkinson Miller

Trey Bankhead

Joe Chamberlain

Jane Haenle

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CHOIR MEMBERS

Paul Cena, *Director*

Laura Munson, *Section Leader*

Betsy Curtis

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John Clayton, *Section Leader*

Peter Dow

Dan Galley

Steve Shanley

Nicholas Williams, *Section Leader*

Peter Curtis

Tom Owen

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Greeters:

Teresa Maciocha, Emily Carlin

Liturgist:

Leslie Charlier, Sharon Rogers

Chalicers:

Carol Case Syracuse, Emily Carlin, Ed Fries

Altar Guild:

Leslie Charlier

Counters:

Teresa Maciocha, Christina Kinney

Ensemble

Nancy Baun on cello

Claire Fisher on violin

John Hasselback III on trumpet

Harry Fackelman on saxophone

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

Thursday @7pm

12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality