

A Service of Holy Communion

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

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 in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania and is a part of the Anglican Communion which is based in England but found worldwide.

Welcome to Trinity's gathered community! We are together on-site and online! The people of Trinity Church gather around a table piled high with sp there is a place for you and everyone at the table, whatever your religious p you are at Trinity in person, know that this congregation supports anyone who

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. If you are at Trinity in person, know that this congregation supports anyone who wears a mask to reduce risk of infection. Please feel free to receive communion and participate in the service as fully as you want. If you are watching the Facebook Live Stream, you may add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time. If you are on-site, you can use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshippers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down! WiFi internet access is publicly available. Use the "Trinity Open" network with the password "Welcome!"

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. This communal worship service is many things, including an offering of your prayers. You may light a candle on one of the candle walls at any time during worship as a tangible way to make that prayer offering, or if you are online, request a candle lighting in the comments, and someone on-site will light a candle on your behalf. If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued.

Children, with all their sounds and movements, are a welcome part of the gathering for worship. It is perfectly appropriate to keep your kids with you in the pew. If your baby or toddler would be happier being able to crawl around and play, there are Kids' Corners in both side aisles. These are enclosed and safe spaces for small children (attended by their parents) to play quietly on the floor while staying in church. Additionally, there is a room in the back left corner of the church that has a rocking chair and a changing table where you can attend to your child's needs. You may also choose to take advantage of our nursery which is available for toddlers through age 5.

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.

PRELUDE

Tenor Soloist: John Clayton

"COMFORT YE/EVERY VALLEY" BY G.F. HANDEL

Comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem
And cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished,
That her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill made low. The crooked straight and the rough places plain.

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

May the sounds of Advent stir a longing in your people, O God. Come again to set us free from the dullness of routine and the poverty of our imaginations. Break the patterns which bind us to small commitments and to the stale answers we have given to questions of no importance. Let the Advent trumpet blow, let the walls of our defenses crumble, and make a place in our lives for the freshness of your love, well-lived in the Spirit, and still given to all who know their need and dare receive it. **Amen.**

This centering prayer was written by Howard Thurman.

Cover image: "Allentown Highway" by Matt Lincoln, 2020

INTROIT

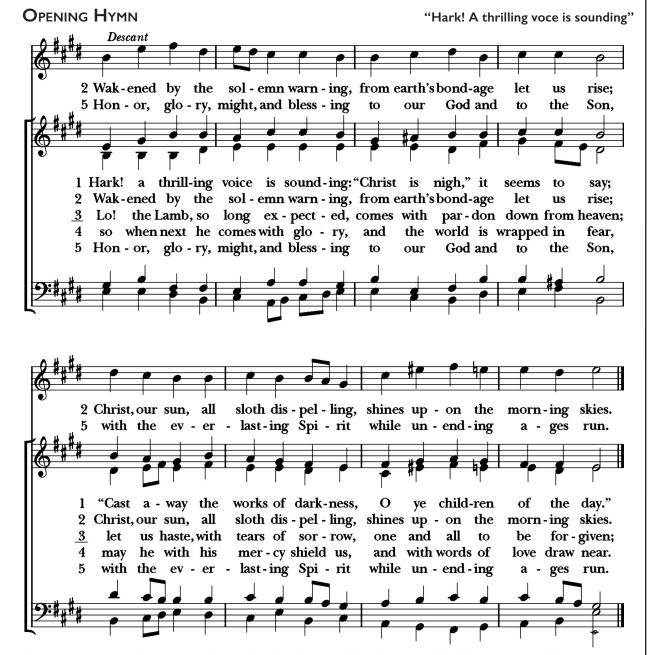
"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" from Godspell by Stephen Schwartz

Let us pray.

Lord of light, who sent the Baptist to offer hope and face the world's scorn: open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, inciting our vision and calling us to a step of faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

This prayer is by Steven Shakespeare from Prayers for an Inclusive Church.

In spirit or in body, the congregation stands to sing hymns.



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935) Copyright © by permission of Cambridge University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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

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 needsand were then found to be helpful to the faithful even after fulfilling their original purpose.

FIRST READING BARUCH 5:1-9

ake off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Eternal One, for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand upon the height, look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

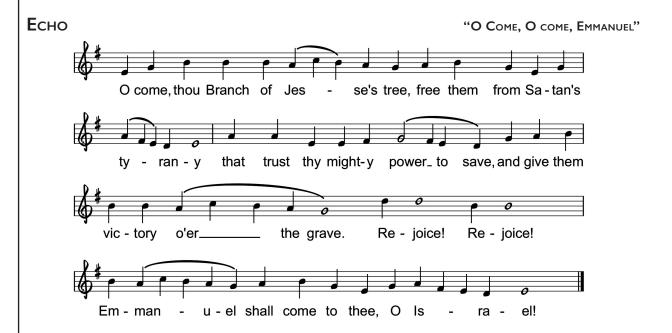
For God has ordered that every high mountain and the ancient hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of God's glory, with the compassion and justice that come from the Most High.

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

Thanks be to God.



MIDDLE READING

"WINTER MORNING" BY JAMES CREWS

When I can no longer say thank you for this new day and the waking into it, for the cold scrape of the kitchen chair and the ticking of the space heater glowing orange as it warms the floor near my feet, I know it is because I've been fooled again by the selfish, unruly man who lives in me and believes he deserves only safety and comfort. But if I pause as I do now, and watch the streetlights outside winking off one by one like old men closing their cloudy eyes, if I listen to my tired neighbors slamming car doors hard against the morning and see the steaming coffee in their mugs

kissing their chapped lips as they sip and exhale each of their worries white into the icy air around their faces—then I can remember this one life is a gift each of us was handed and told to open: Untie the bow and tear off the paper, look inside and be grateful for whatever you find even if it is only the scent of a tangerine that lingers on the fingers long after you've finished eating it.

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

"O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

Есно

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

It is customary (but not required) to stand for the Gospel reading because it symbolizes the mystical presence

of Christ.

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.

GOSPEL READING LUKE 3:1-6

n the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias, tetrarch of Abilene. In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the desert. John went through the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

"A herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of our God; clear a straight path.

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The twisted paths will be made straight, and the rough road smooth;

and all humankind will see the salvation of God."

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; dispel the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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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

James Crews is a Vermont poet who also leads workshops and retreats on mindfulness and writing.

poets for this

reading.

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.

In spirit or in body, please stand.

This affirmation of faith comes to us from the Iona Community. Like the Nicene Creed that it reflects, 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.

Add your requests by scaning the QR code.



SERMON THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have heard about you, God of all power:

You made the world out of kindness, creating order out of confusion; you made each one of us in your own image; your fingerprint is on every soul. So we praise you.

We have heard about you, Jesus Christ:

the carpenter who left his tools and trade; the poor man who made others rich; the healer who let himself be wounded; the criminal on whom the soldiers spat not knowing that yours was the face of God; the savior who died and rose again. So we praise you.

We have heard about you, Holy Spirit:

You broke the bonds of every race and nation, to let God speak in every tongue; you made the disciples drunk with grace; you converted souls and offered a new kind of wealth; you showed how love makes all things new and opens the doors to change and freedom. So we praise you.

Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

The Leader and the People pray this Advent Litany responsively.

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 adventurous hope, trusting that you are doing more than we can ask or imagine.

We remember those for whom our prayers have been asked.

Jenn Kane & Clover - recovering from difficult birth

Mark & Dave Gerard

Richard Kay

Laurel Mark - seeking gainful employment

Gary & Lisa Panek- recovering from head-on

motor vehicle accident

Shirley Ruske - diagnosed with cancer

Ross DiLoro

Cassandra and Michael

Jack Giardina

Karen Smallen
Jeff Watson, John and Catherine Gillespie's
son-in-law
Dale Worwa
Ed and Sherry Czechowski - recovering from
a serious motor vehicle accident
Abby Laettner
Adam Kreutinger
Alphonso and Marcia O'Neil-White
Jessica De Oliveira E Silva (Quinn) - battling
stage 4 breast cancer

Margaret (Peggy) Rizzo - suffers from Alzheimer's Kathy Jerzewski - a return of lymphoma Betsy and Peter Curtis For those who have died, and all who mourn them:

Charles Mitschow Michael Dileo Scott McKay

Among the poor,
among the proud,
among the persecuted,
among the privileged,
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.

These prayers are an effort to pray with one voice even though we have a diversity of needs and hopes.

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,

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.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

coming to make all things new.

And also with you.

Now would be a great time to add a comment to the Live Stream!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say, "Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day." Wakened by the solemn warning let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ, our sun, all ill dispelling shines upon the morning skies.

He comes down like fragrant showers, raining on the fruitful earth, Love and joy and hope like flowers springing on his path to birth. See before him on the mountains, peace, the valiant herald go; Righteousness in flowing fountains from the hills to valleys flow.

"CHRIST IS NIGH" BY MARK SCHWEIZER

Kings and monarchs bow before him, myrrh and gold and incense bring; For all nations shall adore him, laud and praise, their offering. Unto him shall prayer unceasing, with our daily vows ascend; His great kingdom still increasing, Kingdom that shall have no end.

Lo, the Lamb so long expected comes with pardon down from Heaven; Let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven. Honor, glory, might and blessing be to God, the Father, Son; And the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. 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 collection plate when it is brought around during the offertory or <u>donate</u> online here, or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256. You can also get there by scanning the QR code

Your financial



SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

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

All things come of thee, O Lord;

and of thine own have we given thee.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

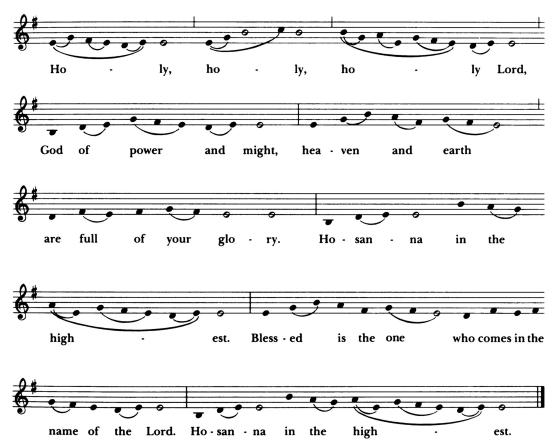
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This Eucharistic Prayer is from the Episcopal Church's Enriching Our Worship. 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 shout for joy:



Plainsong, Mode 2; Mass 12; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (c)1985

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?

RECEIVING COMMUNION

For those of you online, you are invited to have a morsel of bread and a sip of wine (or any substitutes you choose) during the time that communion is being shared.

For those in the building, you are invited to come forward and make a large circle around the perimeter of the open area, where you will be offered a morsel of bread dipped in wine. Please let the ministers of communion know if you prefer not to have your bread dipped in the wine. Also, let them know if you need a gluten-free wafer instead of wheat bread.

We are following a pattern of going back and forth between using an alternative interpretation of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks and then using the traditional Prayer Book version for a few weeks.

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.

PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray:

God of new beginnings,
the veil between us thins as we draw near
around your wisdom and table.
Strengthen and renew us,
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit;
and may your light so shine through us
that all may welcome your coming presence.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. Amen.

BLESSING

Life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who animates and guides us be with you now and always. **Amen.**

This blessing is based on the words of Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881).

> In spirit or in body, the congregation stands to sing hymns.

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Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: Winchester New, melody from Musicalishes Hand-Buch, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

DISMISSAL

Go now on an adventure of faith, hope and love, meeting Christ in the world. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE "SKATING" BY VINCE GUARALDI

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrate the season!

Trinity presents a free concert for children of all ages on **TODAY @12:30pm**. Cookies and goodies will be served at 12:00 following service. Come and sing Christmas songs, played by Krista on piano, Matt Harris on saxophone, and Claire Fisher on violin!

Family Choir

This is a way to get together with other families for fun, grow in faith at the same time, and strengthen the community. Tim Lane, a music educator and former boy chorister himself, leads the choir in practice sessions before church on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:15. Speak to Tim for details or email t.w.lane@outlook.com.

Trinity Discussion Group: Exploring Advent Through Poetry

Starting December 4 join Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke on **Wednesdays** @**7pm** via Zoom (Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk) Explore Advent with poems from notable poets including Rowan Williams, T. S. Eliot, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and George Herbert in Janet Morley's *Haphazard by Starlight* poetry anthology. Sessions will include readings of poems, faith-based reflections, and discussion questions. Please email Jeffrey Tooke at jeffreytooke@outlook.com to sign up and for more information.

Hamlin Park School Monthly Community Event

Each event has a theme and is open to all. They are always looking for volunteers. The times and dates are:

Saturday Academy 10am-Ipm:

December 14, February I, March 8, April 5, May 3

Evening 4:30-6pm:

January 30, April 3

Trinity members would be welcome to any of these. For more information, you can contact the Say Yes To Education coordinator Van Daniel at vdaniel@sayyesbuffalo.org or (716)388-1572.

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for a couple of volunteers interested in assisting with maintaining and preparing the materials for the altar and communion. Duties can include any combination of the following you are comfortable with: preparing communion elements, washing dishes from communion, laundering altar linens, coordinating altar decorating for special services. You can contact Tim Lane t.w.lane@outlook.com for more details.





Finity is an Episcopal Church in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania. 371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202



The Rev. Matthew R. Lincoln, Rector mlincoln@trinitybuffalo.org (716) 852-8314 ext. 2

Krista Seddon, Director of Ensembles; Pianist

krista@kristaseddon.com www.kristaseddon.com

Paul Cena, Organist and Choir Director

prcena@verizon.net

The Rev. Deacon Jeffrey Tooke, Curate The Rev. William Roberts, Assisting Priest

Colleen O'Neill, Parish Administrator and

Director of Children's Ministries coneill@trinitybuffalo.org (716) 852-8314 ext. I

Jennifer Frey, Office Volunteer clerical@trinitybuffalo.org

Rich Mpelezos, Facility Manager rmpelezos@trinitybuffalo.org

Denise Lanzilotta, Caretaker Jay Mpelezos, Caretaker

VESTRY

John Alduino, Senior Warden Erickson Contreras, Junior Warden

Bing Sherrill, Treasurer

Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk

Clint Brown **Emily Carlin** Chris Cuccia Sue Doherty Connie Ervin Tim Lane

Megan McElfresh Missy Stolfi

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John Clayton, Section Leader

Sue Doherty Christina Kinney

Tim Lane, Section Leader Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick Laura Munson, Section Leader

Tom Owen **Iennifer Ross**

Laura Schleicher, Section Leader

Chris Schmigel Steve Shanley lamie Toenniessen

Jocelyn Toenniessen, Section Leader

Ignacio Villa

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Voice of Trinity (Facebook): Julie Keller-Rizzo

Cyber Sacristan: Barbara Hall-Griesmann

Greeters: David Devereux, Phoebe McKay

Readers: Julie Gibert, Susan Doherty, Cheryl Fisher

Prayers: lane Kearns Announcements: Susan Doherty

Ministers of Communion: Missy Stolfi, Cheryl Fisher, Bruce McKay Guest musicians: Claire Fisher, violin; Matt Harris, saxophone

Counter: Susan Doherty

Bakers: Susan Doherty, Jane Kearns

All services are in person AND online:

Sunday @10:30am 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.

Sunday @7:00pm Featuring poetry and jazz, in person in the Chapel and on Zoom.

Wednesday @Noon Prayer and holy conversation, in person and on Zoom

Thursday @7pm The wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery, in person and on

Zoom

Email your request for a link to the Zoom worship services here.



