

A Service of Holy Communion

December I, 2024

First 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.

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

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

Cover image: "Clouds Descending" by Matt Lincoln, 2020

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 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

"SLEEPERS WAKE" BY J.S. BACH

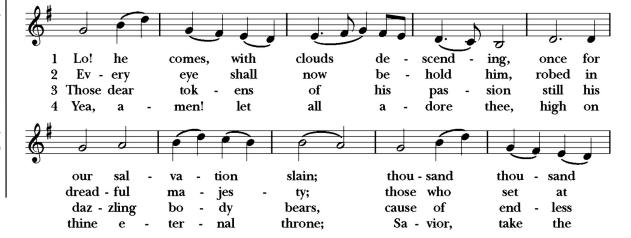
CENTERING PRAYER

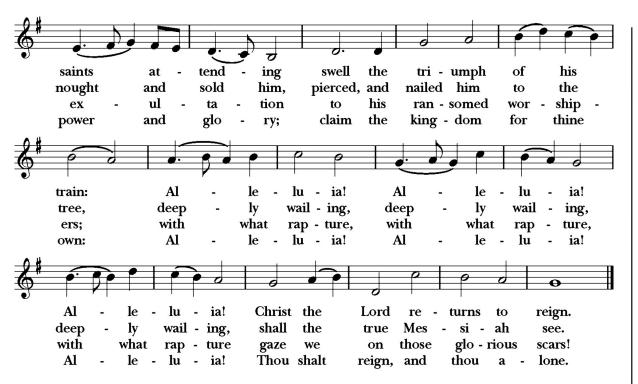
Let us pray.

Lord of the wilderness way, whose word scours our smooth evasions: take us on the unbending road to the raw centre of our world with a cry of invitation and the call of sudden grace; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Lo! He comes with clouds descending"





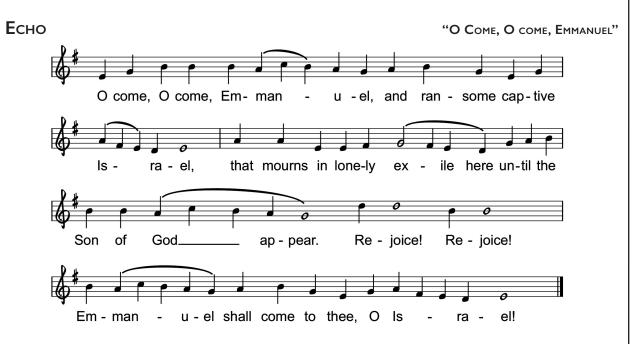
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Helmsley, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 33:14-16

he days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will bestow on Israel and Judah all the blessings I promised them. In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous branch from the line of David, who will bring justice and integrity to the land. In those days Judah will be safe and Jerusalem will be secure. They will call the land, 'The Lord Is Our Justice.'"

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

Thanks be to God.



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 Šcriptures, 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 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.

Pat Schneider (b. 1934) is a poet, playwright, librettist, and author of ten books of poetry and nonfiction. From age ten, she lived in city tenements and an orphanage until she was given a college scholarship. Her website, patschneider.com, tells us that her early experiences have deeply influenced her writing and fueled her passion for those who have been denied voice through poverty and other misfortunes.

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.

MIDDLE READING

Night. How the stars came down arching over us, and the only name we had for them was shooting stars.

Why there were so many was anybody's

My great grandmother thought the world was coming to an end when Haley's comet flared across the sky. I lay flat on my back and watched the night sky falling all around me and I wanted, more than anything, never to go home. I did, of course. They put us campers into busses

"How the Stars Came Down" BY PAT Schneider and drove us back to tenements, asphalt and streetlights in the city. What I didn't know that night in my bedroll at Sherwood Forest Camp was that when I got home, home wasn't my real home any more. I had a new home in my remembering and it was dark and safe and beautiful with shooting stars still falling all around.

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

el!

ra

O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or - derest all things might - i - ly, to us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice!

GOSPEL READING LUKE 21:25-36

ls

u - el shall come to thee, O

esus said, "Signs will appear in the sun, the moon and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand."

And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, or any other tree. You see when they're budding and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things happening, know that the reign of God is near. The truth is, this generation will not pass away until all this takes place. The heavens and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on your guard lest your spirits become weighed down with indulgence, drunkenness and worldly cares. That day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. It will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on your watch. Pray constantly for the strength to escape whatever comes, and to stand secure before the Chosen One."

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

Thanks be to God.

Есно

"O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

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

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

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.

Sermon

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.

Add your requests by scaning the QR code.



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

leff 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

That God's reign might be manifest,

that the world might believe,

that the humble might be raised,

coming to make all things new.

that the powerful might stumble,

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.

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.

Within us,

without us,

Christ is coming,

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.

....

With a gentle touch, with an angry word,

with a clear conscience,

with burning love,

Christ is coming,

coming to make all things new.

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

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Desert blossom as a rose, rising, radiant as it grows, All arrayed in crimson show; come to us, O God of hope.

Thirsty land become a stream, flowing fountain calm serene, Clear cascade from heaven above; come to us O God of love. Alleluia!

Weakened hands be now made strong; Silent tongues break forth in song; Blinded eyes your sight employ; come to us O God of joy.

"ADVENT CAROL" BY CAROL McClure AND ALFRED FEDAK

Soon a pathway shall be found; for the faithful holy ground, Safe from angry waring beast; come to us O God of peace. Alleluia!

Sing God's praise Jerusalem! Hope, joy, love and peace shall come; Sorrow, sighing now dispel; come to us Emmanuel.

King of glory, soul of bliss; Everlasting life is this; thee to know, thy power to prove Thus to sing and thus to love Alleluia!

Your financial support is not only a practical necessity. It can also be a very meaningful symbolic gesture, expressing your gratitude for the blessings in your life and your hope for health in the world. You can place cash or a check in the collection plate when it is brought *around during the* offertory or donate online here, or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256. You can also get there by scanning the OR code



This Eucharistic Prayer is from the Episcopal Church's Enriching Our Worship.

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

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.

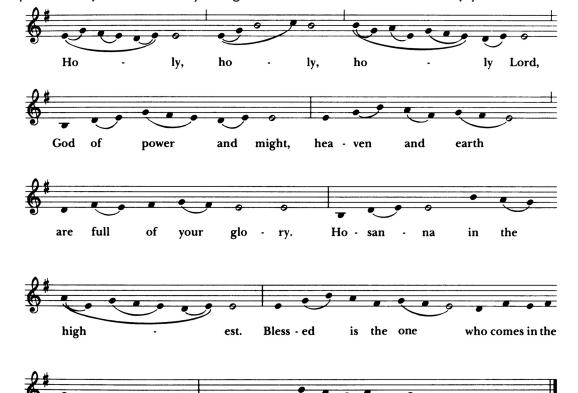
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

the Lord.

Ho · san · na

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:



high

est.

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.

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. 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.

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

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

"ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE" BY JEROME KERN & OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Brunch

Join Trinity friends **TODAY** following the 10:30 service for brunch at Mexican restaurant Taqueria Ranchos Dos, located at 445 Delaware Avenue, 1½ blocks north of the church.

Orie Hebard Memorial Service

We are sad to report that long time Trinity member, Orie Hebard died. The family is planning a memorial service at Trinity on **December 7 @5pm.** May she rest in peace.

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.

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Worship Helpers Needed

Are you willing to be involved with reading from the altar, greeting people at the door and helping direct them with what to expect, providing hospitality by baking for coffee hour, or helping serve communion to the gathered community? Please sign up at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fafa629a3f58-trinity2 or reach out to Jeffrey Tooke at jeffreytooke@outlook.com to be placed on a list of volunteers when we have worship volunteer slots to fill. If you are interested in being more involved, but aren't interested in any of these roles, you can also plan on helping during services by bringing a device to connect to Facebook viewers and responding to comments during the service.

Visiting Trinity

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.

Explore Buffalo

Learn more about Trinity's windows and the impact they have had on American art history. Share this Buffalo treasure with your friends! Explore Buffalo leads tours of Trinity's windows as part of its Sacred Spaces series. Check the website listed below or scan the QR code for the schedule. https://explorebuffalo.org/sacred-spaces/trinity-episcopal-church/

Computer Volunteer Ministry Opportunity

We are looking for a couple computer savvy volunteers who would be interested in volunteering as cyber sacristan to help with the livestream for the Sunday morning service and/or the Trinity @7 service. One only needs to be comfortable with using a computer and computer programs; the rest are easily learnable skills. If you'd like to know more or are interested in this volunteer ministry, please contact Jeffrey Tooke at ieffreytooke@outlook.com

Comfort and Care Team

The Comfort and Care Team is here to help and support you or someone you know experiencing health or other life challenges. Email any one of us to request prayers, a caring phone call, notes, information on resources, a friendly visit, or arranging meals.

Phoebe McKay, phoebemckay@gmail.com
Susie Green, susie432@gmail.com
Patti Nisbet, tudorspace@aol.com

Marie Keane, MNMKeane@gmail.com
Sara Merritt, smerrit172@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities With One of our Partners

Creative Restorations is seeking dedicated volunteers to assist with the operation of our food pantry, which serves those in need in our community. We are looking for help on **Mondays** from **9am-Noon**, **Wednesdays** from **12-3pm**, and **Fridays** from **3-6pm**. If you are interested in lending a hand and making a difference, please reach out to Chris Harzynski at 716-553-4886. Your support would be greatly appreciated!

Parking at Trinity's Franklin Street Lot

When you come to a church service, you can park in Trinity's Franklin Street lot for free. Neither will the parking fees be enforced during Trinity events. But you can use the lot any other time you are in the neighborhood, too! Park in your church's lot any time you would have to pay for parking in the neighborhood so that Trinity gets the parking fee! Use your smartphone to pay.





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





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Instagram: @trinity.church.buffal

STAFF

The Rev. Matthew R. Lincoln, Rector mlincoln@trinitybuffalo.org

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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

CHOIR MEMBERS

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 Sacristans: Christian Eshelman and Meg Knowles Greeters: Erickson Contreras, Susie Green Readers: Don Ingals, Missy Stolfi, Jeffrey Tooke

Kristine Caughell **Prayers:** Announcements: Missy Stolfi

Ministers of Communion: Jeffrey Tooke, Judy Fitzgerald, Clint Brown Guest musician: Ken Kuriscak, saxophone and flute

Counter: Tim Lane

Bakers: Kristine Caughell, Susie Green

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.

