



A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cover image:
"Puer Natus" from
a 16th Century
Italian illuminated
manuscript — in the
public domain

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.

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.

PRELUDE

"THE FIRST NOEL" ARRANGED BY IVAN FRAZIER

INVITATION TO CENTERING, CHORAL INTROIT

"LAUDAMUS TE" (FROM GLORIA) BY A. VIVALDI

SOPRANO SOLOISTS LAURA MUNSON AND LAURA SCHLEICHERI

Text

Laudamus te, Benedicimus te,
Adoramus te, Glorificamus te.

Translation

We praise Thee, we adore Thee
We adore Thy name, we glorify Thy name.

BIDDING PRAYER

God of all people, and creatures of every description, of the living and the dead,
God of all places and planets, stars and galaxies,
God of the beginning and end of time, of all time, even this moment,
We gather to hear the sacred story of your love for us and all whom you have made.
To open our hearts to the hope of renewal and restoration,
we lay before you our worries and grief, our fears and regrets,

and the hopes and commitments that are not bold enough to stir us to live with the justice and love that are your will for the world.

Hear us, we pray.

Dear People of God,

I invite you to entrust to God your deepest concerns and most hesitant hopes.

I bid you pray for the sick and the dying, and for those who dignify the lives of the sick by caring for them.

I bid you pray for those whose work is so basic to life that they are overlooked rather than honored.

I bid you pray for the the poor and the destitute, and for those who are prevented by misfortune or injustice from being able to meet their own needs or achieve their dreams.

I bid you pray for the brokenhearted, for those who have lost hope, and those who have lost loved ones.

Lay open your hearts, and with confidence lay down your burdens before God. For there is good news of great joy. Woven throughout the history of human life is the story of creativity, generosity, self-offering, acceptance, and love. Resounding throughout history are the echoes of the story of God in the world. Open your hearts to the story, told in words and music, of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

Hear us, we pray. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“Come thou long expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

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

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

*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 needs—
and were then
found to be helpful
to the faithful even
after fulfilling their
original purpose.*

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;
from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom.
The Spirit of God will rest on you:
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of counsel and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and reverence for God.
You will delight in obeying God,
and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay.
You will treat poor people with fairness
and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden.
With a single word you will strike down tyrants;
with your decrees you will execute evil people.
Justice will be the belt around your waist;
faithfulness will gird you up.
Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the lion cub will graze together,
and a little child will lead them.
The cow will feed with the bear;
their young will lie down together;
the lion will eat hay like the ox.
The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,
and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.
There will be no harm,
no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain;
for as water fills the sea,
so the land will be filled with knowledge of God.
On that day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world; nations will
flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.

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

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL CAROL

"The Lord at first did Adam make" by Gerald Near

*The Lord at first did Adam make out of the dust and clay,
And in his nostrils breathed life even as the scriptures say
And then in Eden's paradise He placed him to dwell,
That he within it should remain to dress and keep it well.*

*Now let good Christians all begin an holy life to live
And to rejoice and merry be for this is Christmas time.*

*And then within the garden he commanded was to stay,
And unto him in commandment these words the Lord did say:
"The fruit which in the garden grows, to thee shall be thy meat,
Except the tree in the midst thereof of which thou shalt not eat."*

"For in the day that thou shalt eat, or do it them come nigh;
For if that thou doth eat thereof then thou shalt surly die."
But Adam he did take no heed unto that holy thing,
But did transgress God's holy law, and so was wrapt in sin.

Now mark the goodness of the Lord which He for mankind bore,
His mercy soon He did extend, lost man for to restore;
And then for to redeem our souls from death and hellish thrall,
He said His own dear Son should be the savior of us all.

LESSON 2

"The Golden Legend"

When Mary was in her fourteenth year and it was time for her to be married, the high priest was uncertain about how to proceed. So he went inside the Holy of Holies to consult the Lord. Presently a voice sounded from the Holies for all to hear. It said: "Each unmarried but marriageable man of the house of David is to bring a branch to the altar. One of these branches will bloom and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove will perch upon its tip, according to the prophecy of Isaiah. The man to whom this branch belongs is, beyond all doubt, the one who is to be the virgin's spouse."

Joseph, of the house of David, was among the other men, but it seemed incongruous to him that a man of his advanced age should take so tender a young woman to wife, and he alone withheld his branch when the others placed theirs on the altar. So it was that nothing happened as the divine voice had predicted, and the high priest thought to consult the Lord a second time. The voice responded that the only man who had not brought his branch was the one to whom the virgin was to be espoused. Therefore Joseph brought his branch forward, it flowered at once, and a dove came from heaven and perched upon it. So it was clear to all that Joseph was to be Mary's husband.

Once the espousals were accomplished, Joseph went back to his home city of Bethlehem to get his house ready and to make the necessary arrangements for the wedding. Mary, on the other hand, returned to her parents' home in Nazareth, together with seven virgins of her own age, whom the high priest had assigned to her because of what the miracle had shown. And in those days the angel Gabriel appeared to her as she prayed, and announced to her that she was to be the mother of the Son of God.

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

Thanks be to God.

*Jacobus De
Voragine,
Archbishop of
Genoa, Italy in
the 1200's, tells of
Mary's betrothal to
Joseph.*

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

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“Lo, how a Rose e’re blooming”



1 Lo, how a Rose e’er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah ’twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se’s lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God’s love a - right, she bore to
Both hu - man and true God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.



LESSON 3

“THE RISK OF BIRTH” BY MADELEINE L’ENGLE

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn—
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

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

CHORAL CAROL

“Ding, Dong! Merrily on High” arranged by Gerald Near

*Ding, dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing,
Ding, dong! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Even so here below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And IO, IO, IO, by priest and people sungen.*

*Pray you dutifully prime your Matin chime ye ringers,
May you beautifully rime your Evetime song ye singers.*

LESSON 4

A Milkweed

Anonymous as cherubs
Over the crib of God,
White seeds are floating
Out of my burst pod.
What power had I
Before I learned to yield?
Shatter me, great wind:
I shall possess the field.

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

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

I 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?

Refrain:

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

“TWO VOICES IN A MEADOW” BY RICHARD WILBUR

A Stone

As casual as cow-dung
Under the crib of God,
I lie where chance would have me,
Up to the ears in sod.
Why should I move? To move
Befits light desire.
The sill of Heaven would founder,
Did such as I aspire.

“What child is this”

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.

Refrain

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.

Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007) was an American writer of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and young adult fiction, including A Wrinkle in Time.

Richard Purdy Wilbur (1921–2017) was an American poet and literary translator.

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

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

CHORAL CAROL

“March of the Kings” arranged by Mark Hayes

*One fine day I met upon the way
The Kings of east as they came slowly marching,
Yes, one fine day I met upon the way
The Kings of east in all their fine array.*

*The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh
Were guarded closely by a band of valiant warriors,
Their shields and armor were shining bright,
Agleam and sparkling in the morning light.*

*From the east, guided by the star,
Came wise men searching for a King to worship.
Three great kings, three men of great acclaim,
Unto the town of Bethlehem they came.*

*They found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes
In a manger with Mary and Joseph
And as the star shown on cattle stall
They bowed and worshiped the King of all.*

LESSON 5

MATTHEW 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. When Jesus' mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly. This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and said, "Joseph, heir to the House of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, that is, 'Salvation,' because he will save the people from their sins." All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and give birth, and the child will be named Immanuel" (a name that means 'God is with us'). When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage. He did not have marital relations with her until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

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

Thanks be to God.

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 big blue urn at the head of the aisle or [donate online here](#), or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256. You can also get there by scanning this QR code:



CHORAL CAROL

"TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY" ARRANGED BY JOHN GARDNER

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day, I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance.

Sing O my love, this have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid and wrapped, I was, so very poor this was my chance;
Betwixt an ox and silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance.

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.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

"SOON AND VERY SOON"



1. Soon and ver - y soon _ we are goin' to see the King, _
2. No more cry - in' there _ we are goin' to see the King, _
3. No more dy - in' there _ we are goin' to see the King, _
4. Soon and ver - y soon _ we are goin' to see the King; _



1. Soon and ver - y soon _ we are goin' to see the King, _
2. No more cry - in' there _ we are goin' to see the King, _
3. No more dy - in' there _ we are goin' to see the King, _
4. Soon and ver - y soon _ we are goin' to see the King, _

We are following a pattern of using an alternative interpretation of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks and then using the traditional Prayer Book version for a week or two, and then going to a different interpretation for a few weeks, then the Prayer Book version for a week or two, etc.

This version of the Lord's Prayer is what many of us grew up learning. It is also the version shared at the end of many 12 Step meetings. Although it is important to stay fresh and engaged by the words of our prayers, it is also important to be reminded that we as individuals are part of a great cloud of witnesses who have been inspired to turn to God in prayer throughout the ages.

**Jesus revealed a new, personal sense of relationship with God by addressing God as something like "Papa." Always feel free to use your most meaningful name for God in saying the Lord's Prayer.*

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

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,
 2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,
 3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,
 4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,

— Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, — we're goin' to see the King!

1. 2. Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

Words: Andrae Crouch (b. 1942)
 Music: Andrae Crouch
 Copyright © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP

POSTLUDE

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS?” TRADITIONAL/ARRANGED BY KRISTA SEDDON

WE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

- Jenn Kane & Clover - recovering from difficult birth
- Joseph Silvestri
- 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:
Michael Dileo
Scott McKay

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

TODAY after Lessons & Carols please stay to help with the **Greening** of the Church. Join in for the transformation of the church as we light the trees and spread the greens. The cleaning of the church, such as brass polishing and window decorating, wreath hanging and more will be held on this day too. All hands are needed; the more the merrier and the lighter the load. And you are welcome to stay for lunch!

Darkness into Light: When the Christmas Spirit Eludes You

TONIGHT @7 pm, Trinity will hold a special evening service for persons who are struggling with Christmas this year. You may be experiencing grief or loss, sadness or depression. For any reason, if you can't quite conjure up Christmas joy, Trinity would like to meet you where you are, give you some empathy, and share this evening of readings, Krista's music, and a communion service. Simple reception to follow. Service also available on Zoom.

Trinity Greeting Cards for Sale

Trinity window cards for sale after the 10:30 service on Sundays. \$15 for five cards, \$5 for one. They make great Christmas cards, hostess gifts, sympathy cards, etc. All proceeds benefit the restoration of our treasured windows.

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.

Christmas Eve Children's Pageant

Our Christmas Eve Pageant and Communion service will be offered **@3:00**. If you have a child or grandchild you would like to see in the pageant, please arrive **by 2:30pm** to get into costume. See Colleen O'Neill with any questions. All children will be included! No rehearsal needed!

Announcements continued on insert



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

 [Facebook: @Trinitybuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/Trinitybuffalo)

 [YouTube: Trinity Church Buffalo](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityChurchBuffalo)

 [Instagram: @trinitychurch.buffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinitychurch.buffalo)

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Denise Lanzilotta, Caretaker
Jay Mpelezos, Caretaker

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Voice of Trinity: Julie Keller-Rizzo
Cyber Sacristans: Christian Eshelman, Barbara Hall-Griesmann
Readers: John Clayton, Cheryl Fisher, Leslie Charlier, Tom Owen, Davis Bradley
Announcements: John Alduino
Counter: Chris Cuccia
Bakers: Abigail Ruggles, Tom Owen

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](#).

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
Jennifer Ross
Laura Schleicher, Section Leader
Chris Schmigel
Steve Shanley
Jamie Toenniessen
Jocelyn Toenniessen, Section Leader
Ignacio Villa