

A Service of Holy Communion

January 5, 2025

Second Sunday After Christmas

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 prayer is by Laurence Housman (1865 – 1959), English playwright, writer, and illustrator.

Cover image: The Epiphany window, by John La Farge, based on a painting by Rogier Van der Weyden.

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

“ALLEMANDE FROM VIOLIN PARTITA IN D MINOR” BY J. S. BACH

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Light looked down and beheld darkness.

There will I go, said Light.

Peace looked down and beheld war.

There will I go, said Peace.

Love looked down and beheld hate.

There will I go, said Love.

So Light came, and shone.

So Peace came, and gave rest.

So Love came, and gave life.

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

OPENING HYMN

“On this day earth shall ring”

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

Introduction

1 On this day earth shall ring
2 His the doom, ours the mirth;
3 God's bright star, o'er his head,
4 On this day an - gels sing;

with the song chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,
when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;
Mag - i three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,

born on earth to save us; him the God - head gave us.
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.
lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Refrain

Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,

Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

“Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!” is Latin for “Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”

Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)
Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

666. 66 with Refrain

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

For thus says God:
Sing aloud with joy for Jacob!
Hail the Head of Nations!
Make your praises heard, and say,
‘God, save your people, Israel's remnant!’
For I will bring them from the lands of the north
and gather them from the ends of the earth—
the blind and the lame will be among them,
along with expectant mothers and women in labor.
They will return in vast numbers.
They will return weeping and praying.
I will guide them in my mercy.
I will lead them beside streams of water,
along level ground where they will not stumble.
For I am forever a mother and father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.”

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

Continued on next page

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.

Hear the word of God, you nations,
 proclaim it on faraway shores:
 "The one who scattered Israel will gather it in,
 and watch over it as shepherds watch their flocks."
 For God ransomed Jacob
 and delivered the people from a foe stronger than they.
 When the people arrive they will shout for joy on Zion's heights,
 radiant over God's goodness—
 over the grain, wine and oil,
 over the young of the flocks and herds.
 They will flourish like well watered gardens,
 and sorrow will be no more.
 Then the young women will dance with joy,
 and the young men and the elderly will make merry.
 "I will turn their mourning into joy;
 I will comfort them, exchanging gladness for sorrow.
 I will satisfy the priests with the fat of the land,
 and my people their fill of the bounty," says God.

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

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.

Howard Thurman (1899 – 1981) was an African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. His theology of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders within the movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr.

ECHO

“WHAT STAR IS THIS WITH BEAMS SO BRIGHT”

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
 forth the King, and sa - ges to his crib to bring.

MIDDLE READING

“CHRISTMAS BEGINS” BY HOWARD THURMAN

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

“WHAT STAR IS THIS WITH BEAMS SO BRIGHT”

True spake the prophet from afar
who told the rise of Jacob's star;
and eastern sages with amaze
upon the wondrous token gaze.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth, which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod, astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me, so that I may go and offer homage, too."

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

“WHAT STAR IS THIS WITH BEAMS SO BRIGHT”

O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek the face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of the light to use.

SERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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.

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,
written by Matt
Lincoln, is an
adaptation of the
Nicene Creed. Like
the the creed on
which it is based, 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.
Participate at your
own level of comfort.*

*Add your requests
by scanning the
QR code.*



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, who is the source of all creation, seen and unseen.

We trust that God's divine life is conceived by God and was born in the human form of Jesus, through his mother Mary.

In his life, death and resurrection, Jesus embodied God's self-giving love for the world and God's will to regenerate life, and to reclaim us from the oblivion of death.

We trust that the Spirit of God is present in this world, in our hearts, and within the community of faith, guiding us into all truth and inspiring us to love as we have been loved, to create as we have been created.

Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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 the hope that comes with new life, trusting that you are doing more than we can ask or imagine.

We remember those for whom our prayers have been asked.

Christian Cuccia- suffered a fall
Ed Hillburger - diagnosed with Parkinson's,
and his wife Jill
Bruce McKay- eye infection and surgery
Joe Silvestri- recovering from a stroke
Paul Werner- recovering from a stroke
Louis Bordanaro - fell off ladder
End to world hunger
John Michael Hulme
Mark & Dave Gerard
Richard Kay
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
In thanksgiving for June Harris, born to Kara
and Matt Harris on Sunday, December 29.

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.

With a gentle touch,
with an angry word,
with a clear conscience,
with burning love,
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.

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.

And also with you.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*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.*

"MARCH OF THE KINGS" ARRANGED BY MARK HAYES

*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.*

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

*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
QR code.*



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.

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:

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless'd is the one who comes". The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final fermata on the last note.

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

From Deutsche Messe by F. P. Schubert

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the 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.

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.*

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

All are welcome to receive communion, regardless of religious background or affiliation. 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:

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and remembering the body of Christ,
which has been broken for the life of the world.**

**Now give us grace to trust that we are
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed.**

**Give us the courage to proclaim your love to the world,
and to continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

May the kindness of the animals, the joy of the angels, and 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.**

HYMN

“WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT”



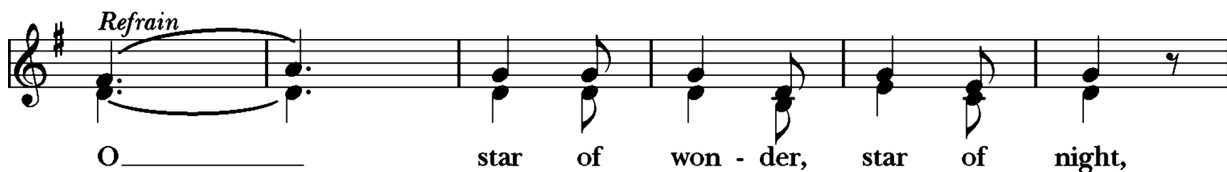
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



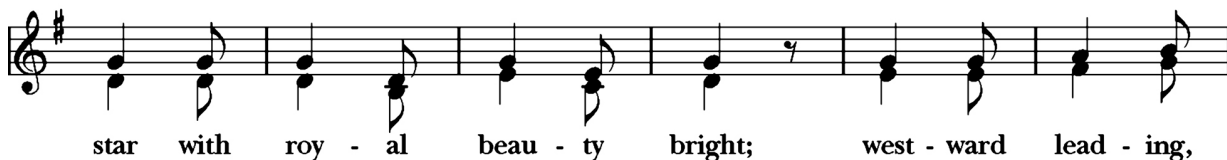
1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



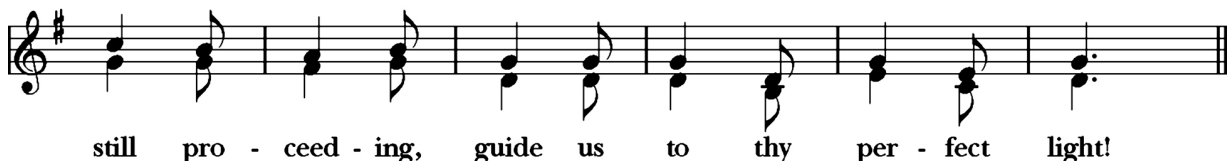
1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



O star of won - der, star of night,



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that we are made one in Christ, to shine in the world with God's light.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“MARCH OF THE KINGS” ARRANGED BY BERNARD DEWAGTERE

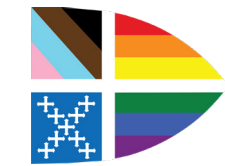
In spirit or in body, the congregation stands to sing hymns.

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



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



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[www.trinitybuffalo.org](#) • (716) 852-8314

371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

STAFF

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. 1

Jennifer Frey, Office Volunteer
clerical@trinitybuffalo.org

Rich Mpezos, Facility Manager
rmpezos@trinitybuffalo.org

Denise Lanzilotta, Caretaker
Jay Mpezos, Caretaker

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Voice of Trinity (Facebook): Julie Keller-Rizzo
Cyber Sacristan: Meg Knowles
Greeters: Susie Green, Erickson Contreras
Readers: Emily Carlin, Davis Bradley, Jeffrey Tooke
Prayers: Marie Keane
Announcements: Susan Doherty
Ministers of Communion: Jeffrey Tooke, Clint Brown, Patti Nisbet
Guest musician: Ana Vafi, violin
Counters: Susan Doherty, Emily Carlin
Bakers: Susan Doherty, 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. Resumes tonight.

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