

A Service of Holy Communion

December 29, 2024

First 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.

*Cover image:
"Slider Sunday" by
Matt Lincoln*

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

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

"GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN" ARRANGED BY AARON DAVID MILLER

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

“Hark! the herald angels sing”

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

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

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.

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.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

I will joyfully exult in God, who is the joy of my soul! My God clothed me with a robe of deliverance and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, the way a bridegroom puts on a turban and a bride bedecks herself with jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and a garden brings its seeds to blossom, so the Highest God makes justice sprout, and praise spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake, I will not be silent; for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest—not until her integrity shines like the dawn, her deliverance like a flaming torch. The nations will see your vindication, and the rulers your splendor; you will have a new name that God's mouth will bestow. You will be a garland of beauty in God's hands, a solemn crown worn by your God.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

“LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly -
mind - ed, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descend - eth,
our full homage to demand.

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885) Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906

MIDDLE READING

The birds they sang
At the break of day
Start again
I heard them say
Don't dwell on what has passed away
Or what is yet to be
Ah, the wars they will be fought again
The holy dove, she will be caught again
Bought and sold, and bought again
The dove is never free

“ANTHEM” BY LEONARD COHEN

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in
We asked for signs
The signs were sent
The birth betrayed
The marriage spent
Yeah, and the widowhood
Of every government
Signs for all to see

I can't run no more
With that lawless crowd
While the killers in high places
Say their prayers out loud
But they've summoned, they've summoned up
A thundercloud
They're going to hear from me

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

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

You can add up the parts
But you won't have the sum
You can strike up the march
There is no drum
Every heart, every heart
To love will come
But like a refugee

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

ECHO

“LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE”

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning, there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind. The Word was coming into the world—was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will—but born of God. And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory—the favor and position a parent gives an only child—filled with grace, filled with truth.

John testified by proclaiming, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.’” Of this One's fullness we've all had a share—gift on top of gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, the Gift—and the Truth—came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the Only Begotten, ever at Abba's side, who has revealed God to us.

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

Leonard Cohen (1934 – 2016) was a Canadian singer-songwriter, poet, and novelist. His work explored religion, politics, isolation, depression, sexuality, loss, death, and romantic relationships.

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.

ECHO

**Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.**

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.

SERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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.

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 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.

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

Add your requests by scanning the QR code.



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

*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.



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

From Deutsche Messe by F. P. Schubert

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ordinary people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.*

"I WONDER AS I WANDER" BY JOHN JACOB NILES

SOPRANO SOLOIST: LAURA MUNSON

*But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the king.*

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:

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

_____ 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

“IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER”

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

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim thron - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

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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!

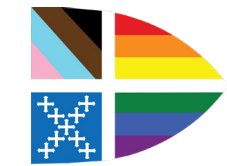
Our spiritual practice is renewed as we leave here and begin again to work the promises of the covenant.

POSTLUDE

“ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY/FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN”
 ARRANGED BY EDWIN JOHNSON



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



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Denise Lanzilotta, Caretaker
Jay Mpezos, Caretaker

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Voice of Trinity (Facebook): Julie Keller-Rizzo
Cyber Sacristan: Barbara Hall-Griesman
Greeters: Susie Green, JoAnne Sundell
Readers: Emily Carlin, Marie Keane, Jeffrey Tooke
Prayers: Missy Stolfi
Announcements: Erickson Contreras
Ministers of Communion: Missy Stolfi, Jeffrey Tooke, Ed Fries
Guest musician: Laura Munson, soprano
Counters: Erickson Contreras
Bakers: Elaine Lodick, Emily Carlin

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 January 5, 2025.

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