

A Service of Holy Communion January 2, 2022 Second Sunday After Christmas

Welcome to Trinity's gathered community! We are together on-site and online!

If you are at Trinity in person, please maintain appropriate distance and wear your mask, considering the fact that some of us may not be fully vaccinated or may have other vulnerabilities. We will celebrate Holy Communion as we have all year, with all participants holding their own bread and wine during the prayers and receiving communion in their seats. In this way, all participants on-site and online will share the same practice.

If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued. As you watch the Live Stream, feel free to add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time!

If you are on-site, feel free to use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshipers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down!

WiFi internet access is publicly available. Please feel free to log onto the "Trinity Open" network with the password "Welcome!"

When we don't have to practice social distancing, 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. For now, even though we are not standing shoulder to shoulder for communion, we are gathered in Spirit sharing the bounty of faith. 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.

Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church and a member parish of the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania in the United States and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide. If you would like to learn more about Trinity, see all our contact information on the last page.

PRELUDE

"Go Tell it on the Mountain" Arranged by Aaron David Miller

CENTERING PRAYER

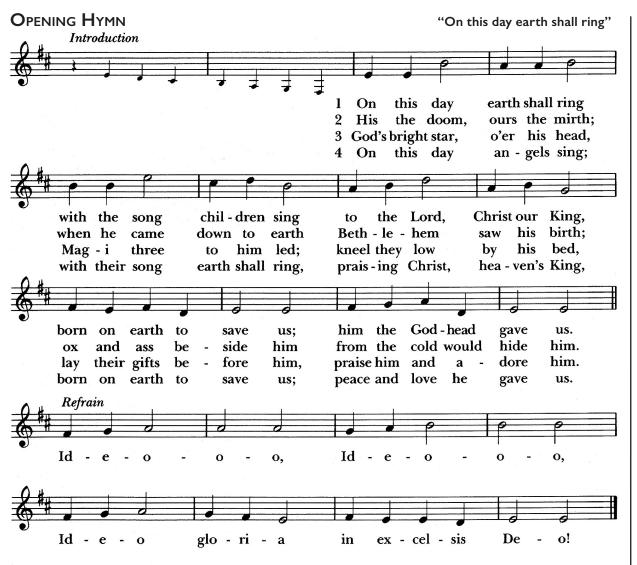
Let us pray together.

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.

Centering Prayer by Laurence Housman (1865 – 1959), English playwright, writer, and illustrator.



"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

or 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.

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

Nobody set out to write The Bible. The Hebrew Scriptures were created over many centuries by many people to record the Jewish People's experience of God. The same is true of the Christian Scriptures, some of which were letters written to a specific audience in response to specific needsand were then found to be helpful to the faithful even after fulfilling their original purpose.

For I am forever a mother and father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn."

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.

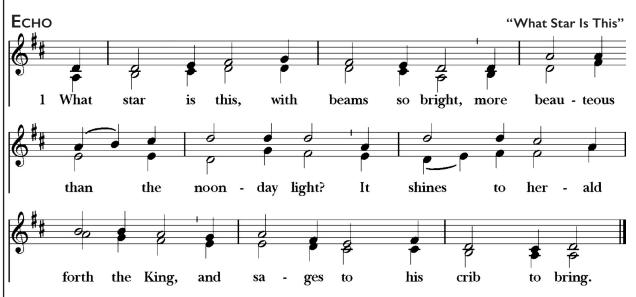
"I will turn their mourning into joy;

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.

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,

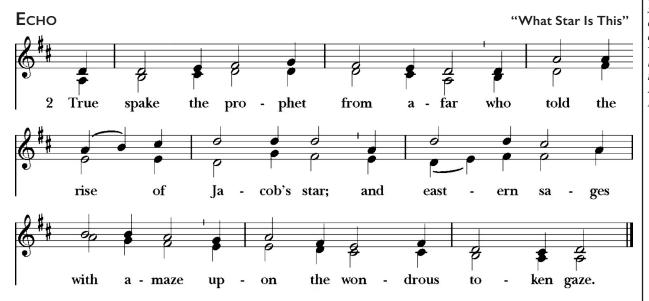
To heal the broken,

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.



GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 2:1-12

fter 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.

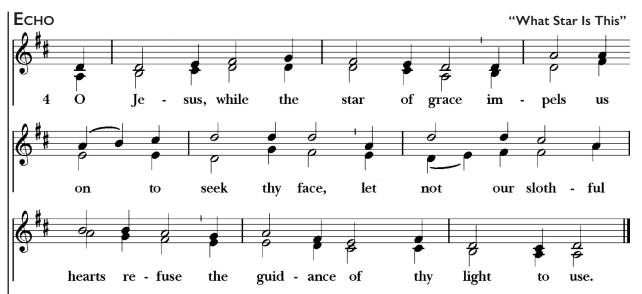
They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

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

Thanks be to God.

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.

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.

This affirmation,

written by Matt Lincoln, is an SERMON THE REV. TERRY BULL

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.

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.

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Intercessory prayer in group worship is a moment to ask God's healing and blessing for people in general, and also in the particularity of this moment. This prayer comes to us from the Church of England's *Common Worship*.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Christ, Son of God, yet born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. **Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.**

O Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. **Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.**

O Christ, before whom the magi knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern. **Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.**

O Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you. **Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Savior, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

"Brightest and Best" Arranged by Shawn Kirchner

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator Down from the regions of glory descend! Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thy aid. Star in the east, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining, Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall. Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker, and Monarch, and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield him in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Your financial support is not only a practical necessity. It can also be a verv meaningful symbolic gesture, expressing your gratitude for the blessings in vour 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:



HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing for joy:



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At the following words, everyone lifts their communion elements into view.

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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!

the

high

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,

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.

est.

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. 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

During a moment of quiet, all receive their bread and wine while remaining where they are. In a few minutes, someone will come by with a tray to collect your cup.

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.

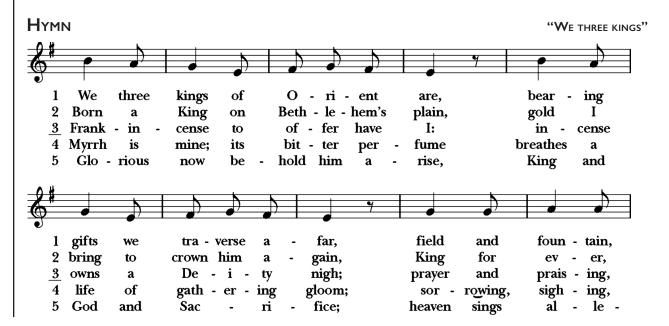
Shakespeare is from his book Prayers for an Inclusive Church.

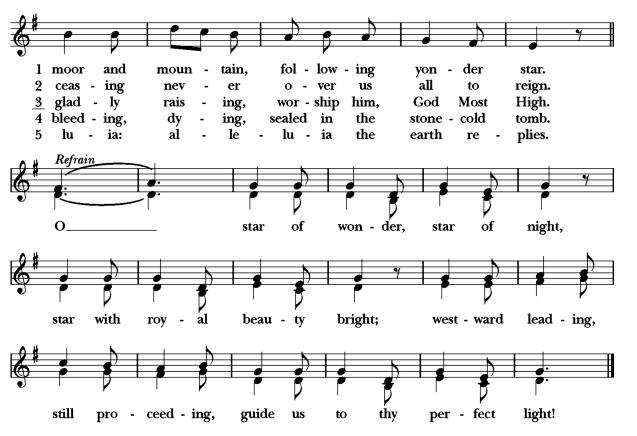
The Prayer for the Road

by Steven

BLESSING

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





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

DISMISSAL

Take your leave, 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

"ALLEGRO FROM SONATA NO. 3 FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO" BY GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

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

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



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Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner

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Laura Munson, Section Leader Cheryl Fisher Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick Christina Kinney Suzanne Fatta, Section Leader Gretchen Brand Sue Doherty Laura Schleicher Carol Case Siracuse John Clayton, Section Leader Steve Shanley Brandon Mecklenburg, Section Leader Tom Owen Ignacio Villa

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Greeters: Chris Cuccia, Dan Galley

Readers: Chris Cuccia, Dan Galley, Marie Keane

Guest musician: Claire Fisher Counter: Karen Hall

All services are in person AND online:

Sunday @10:30am Includes communion at an open table

Sunday @7:00pm An encounter with God through poetry, jazz, and meditation

Trinity @7 will not meet on tonight or Jan 2. We'll gather again on Jan 9.

Wednesday @Noon Rite 2 communion and coffee

Thursday @7pm 12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality