



trinity @7

12.19.2021

welcome

Trinity @7 welcomes you in person and via Zoom. This is a time where we enjoy jazz combined with poetry and a thoughtful reflection. We're always glad to see you and to share this special time together. Even though some of us are in person and others on Zoom, we are one community for a little while. What joy!

No matter the venue, may you experience stillness when it is needed and much joy and laughter when they are needed, or perhaps when least expected. Besides beautiful music and words, we hope this evening brings you a little bit of peace.

We will continue to have a candle lighting time, either at a candle wall in the chapel or in your home.

Given the increase in rates of COVID, we ask that those attending in the chapel wear a mask. Thank you.

a centering prayer

In the gift of this day,
in the gift of the present moment,
in the gift of time and eternity intertwined,
let us be grateful,
let us be attentive,
let us be open to what has never happened before,
in the gift of this day,
in the gift of the present moment,
in the gift of time and eternity intertwined.

amen

interlude

Gloria

by Denise Levertov

Praise the wet snow
falling early.
Praise the shadow
my neighbor's chimney casts on the tile roof
even this gray October day that should, they say,
have been golden.

Praise
the invisible sun burning beyond
the white cold sky, giving us
light and the chimney's shadow.

Prayer by John
Philip Newell

Denise Levertov
(1923-1997) was
born and raised
in England. She
spent her adult
life in the US, and
is considered an
American poet.

Praise
god or the gods, the unknown,
that which imagined us, which stays
our hand,
our murderous hand,
and give us
still,
in the shadow of death,
our daily life,
and the dream still
of goodwill, of peace on earth.

Praise
flow and change, night and
the pulse of day.

interlude

The Solstice Teaches Us

by David Breeden

The Solstices teach us
that darkness comes,
that darkness goes.

The Solstices teach us
that light comes,
that light goes.

The Solstices teach us,
calmly, silently, to be
calm, silent. Learning.

The Solstices teach us
as we circle the sun
that everything flies.

The Solstices teach us
to remember the dark,
to remember the light,
to remember time.

The seasons. And love
as we circle the sun.

interlude

David Breeden
is senior minister
of First Unitarian
Society in
Minneapolis,
Minnesota. He has
written several
books on theological
topics and translates
the writings of
philosophers of
classical antiquity.

It was snowing. It was always snowing at Christmas. December, in my memory, is white as Lapland, though there were no reindeers. But there were cats.

Dylan Thomas

interlude

I heard a bird sing in the dark of December. A magical thing. And sweet to remember. We are nearer to Spring than we were in September. I heard a bird sing in the dark of December.

Oliver Herford

interlude

It is December, and nobody asked if I was ready.

Sarah Kay

interlude

May and October, the best-smelling months? I'll make a case for December: evergreen, frost, wood smoke, cinnamon.

Lisa Kleypas

interlude

I watched you storm towards the restaurant door. It was a chilly December morning and the birds sitting on the high wires in the neighborhood refused to fly any longer.

Malak El Halabi

interlude

How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?

Dr. Seuss

interlude

The Shortest Day

by Susan Cooper

And so the Shortest Day came and the year died
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world
Came people singing, dancing,
To drive the dark away.
They lighted candles in the winter trees;
They hung their homes with evergreen;
They burned beseeching fires all night long
To keep the year alive.
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake
They shouted, revelling.
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them
Echoing behind us - listen!
All the long echoes, sing the same delight,
This Shortest Day,
As promise wakens in the sleeping land:
They carol, feast, give thanks,
And dearly love their friends,
And hope for peace.
And now so do we, here, now,
This year and every year.
Welcome Yule!

Susan Cooper
(b. 1935) in England,
has been a journalist
and is the author of
books for children and
adults. She lives in
Massachusetts.

interlude

reflection

interlude

brief silent meditation

the candle lighting

While Krista plays, feel free to light a candle at one of the walls.
Let's do so mindfully and one at a time, leaving space between you
and the person in front. If you're lighting a candle at home, do so as
if you were in a sacred space. You are.



Prayer written by
John Philip Newell.

For our service
tonight, we took the
liberty of replacing
the word "day" with
"night," and the
"sun's rising" was
changed to "sun's
setting."

closing prayer

May the angels of light
glisten for us this night.

May the sparks of God's beauty
dance in the eyes of those we love.

May the universe

be on fire with Presence for us this night.

May the new sun's setting
grace us with gratitude.

Let earth's greenness shine
and its waters breathe with Spirit.

Let heaven's winds stir the soil of our soul
and fresh awakenings rise within us.

May the mighty angels of light
glisten in all things this night.

May they summon us to reverence,
may they call us to life.

amen

postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent 2021: Journeying Back Into Community

Come explore stories of journeying from exile and isolation back into community through discussion and reflection on both Old and New Testament passages on Tuesday evenings @7pm with Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke. **Tuesday, December 21 @7pm**, is our last evening for the Advent program. We will look at some passages from the Gospel of Matthew to explore how our journey through exile can bring us back to our home and community. You are invited to join Tim and Jeff on Tuesdays @7pm using this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONG1NUUowZz09>

Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk

Email Jeffrey Tooke at jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com for more information.

Christmas Flower Donations

Many parishioners wish to donate to the decorating of the church at Christmas. This is gratefully accepted. To facilitate this, you can use the flower envelope found in the church pews or donate electronically [here](#) by **TODAY**. Thank you for helping make Trinity the beautiful inviting place that it is with both the gifts of your presence and the gifts you donate.

Christmas Eve Festival Worship with an Upside-Down Pageant!

December 24 @3pm, in person or online, the same way we do Sunday morning these days. It will be complete with favorite Christmas hymns, Holy Communion and singing Silent Night by candlelight. This worship service will be available to watch later on both [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) if you can't come to church or watch online live at 3.

Note - This will be Trinity's only Christmas service this year.

The church is open by appointment for private prayer or meditation. Contact our parish administrator, Colleen O'Neill, at coneill@trinitybuffalo.org to schedule an appointment.

TRINITY @7 WILL NOT MEET ON DEC 26 OR JAN 2.
PLEASE JOIN US IN 2022 STARTING JAN 9.



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: [@trinity.church.Buffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinity.church.Buffalo)

 Twitter: [@trinitybuffalo1](https://twitter.com/trinitybuffalo1)

www.trinitybuffalo.org • (716) 852-8314

371 Delaware Ave Buffalo, NY 14202

Thank you to Krista for the beautiful music.

Thank you to Matt Lincoln for bringing us together in every way he can imagine and then for being with us and reflecting from his heart.

Thank you to our host and readers.

Thank you to all the poets and musicians in the world who reflect life back to us in the most beautiful ways.

And of course, thank you.

If you'd like to visit Trinity Church in person for some quiet contemplation or to view the stunning stained glass windows, the church is open for private prayer or meditation by appointment. You are required to sign a registry at the entrance to be used in the event contact tracing is necessary. For private visits, masks are not required if you are fully vaccinated. Contact our parish administrator, Colleen O'Neill, at coneill@trinitybuffalo.org to schedule an appointment.



Trinity has worked so hard during the pandemic to keep people's spiritual lives refreshed and engaged. We kept the whole staff on payroll. We learned how to make Trinity services available online, either with Zoom or Facebook live streaming or both. We've made a commitment to continue with our communities—online and in person. Your donation can be an expression of your gratitude for Trinity and all the blessings in your life and your hope for health in the world. You can [donate online here](https://www.trinitybuffalo.org/donate), or initiate an online donation by texting by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256 OR as you exit, you can make a contribution in the Big Blue Urn. Thank you for your participation and contribution. Peace.

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 Dec 26 and Jan 2. We'll gather again on Jan 9.

Wednesday @Noon Prayer and holy conversation

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