



A Service of Holy Communion
December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve

If you would like to receive more information about Trinity Church, please sign our guest book, located near the entrance. Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church and a member parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York of the Episcopal Church in the United States, and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide.

Merry Christmas! Welcome to Trinity! 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. If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued.

At this Christmas Eve service, of course, children are expected to participate and to behave like children! Even if they are not in the pageant, it is perfectly appropriate to keep your kids with you in the pew. On the other hand, if your baby or toddler would be happier being able to crawl around and play in the care of our fully vaccinated nursery attendant, the nursery is also available. You can find the nursery by going through the door near the baptismal font in the front right corner of the church. Additionally, there is now a Kids’ Corner in the back-right corner of the pews. It is an enclosed and safe space for small children (attended by their parents) to play quietly on the floor while staying in church. Please note that there is a changing table located in the nursery. Additionally, there is a room in the back left corner of the church that has a rocking chair where you can attend to your child.

This centering prayer was written by Madeleine L'Engle.

PRELUDE

“A CHILD IS BORN” BY THAD JONES

CENTERING PRAYER

Thank you, God, for being born,
You who first invented birth
(Universe, galaxies, the earth).
When your world was tired & worn
You came laughing on the morn.

Thank you, most amazing Word
For your silence in the womb
Where there was so little room
Yet the still small voice was heard
Throughout a planet dark & blurred.

Merry Christmas! Wondrous day!
Maker of the universe,
You the end, & you the source
Come to share in human clay
And, yourself, to show the Way.
Amen.

INTROIT

"TORCHES" GAEIC CAROL ARRANGED BY JOHN JOUBERT

Torches, torches, run with torches, all the way to Bethlehem!

Christ is born and now lies sleeping; come sing your song to him!

Ah, Roro, Roro my baby, Ah Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well my heart's own darling, while we sing you Roro.

Sing, my friends and make you merry, joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven, now and evermore. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

**O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of the Father;**
Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;**
Refrain

"O come, all ye faithful"

**See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks,
draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;**
Refrain

**Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee,
with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?**
Refrain

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be
glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;**
Refrain

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

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 stir us to live with the justice and
love that are your will for the world.

Hear us, we pray.

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.

The Bible reading is taken from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality.

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.

Luci Shaw was born in 1928 in London, England, and has lived in Canada, Australia and the U.S.A. She has published 14 volumes of poetry and many other works, and since 1988 has been a Writer in Residence at Regent College, Vancouver, Canada. She lectures on art and spirituality, the Christian imagination, poetry-writing, and journaling as an aid to artistic and spiritual growth.

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 children and their parents and teachers, struggling to awaken fascination and engagement with the wonders of the world.

I bid you pray for 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 broken hearted, 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 of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

Hear us, we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 7:10-14

God spoke to Ahaz and said, "Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!" But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not put God to a test!" Then Isaiah said, "Listen, O House of David! Is it not enough for you to weary those around you, must you also weary my God? Therefore, the Holy One will give you a sign: This young woman will become pregnant and will give birth. You will name the child Emmanuel (which means "God with us.")

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

**Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

"Angels we have heard on high"

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

MIDDLE READING

"DESCENT" BY LUCI SHAW

Down he came from up,
and in from out,
and here from there.
A long leap,
an incandescent fall
from magnificent
to naked, frail, small,
through space,
between stars,
into our chill night air,
shrunk, in infant grace,

to our damp, cramped
earthy place
among all
the shivering sheep.

And now, after all,
there he lies,
fast asleep.

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

HYMN

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

"Angels we have heard on high"

**See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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

PAGEANT - "A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN"

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

HYMN

**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?**

"What child is this"

**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**

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

**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.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Refrain**

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 "MASTERS IN THIS HALL" TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL ARRANGED BY DAVID WILLCOCKS

*Masters in this hall hear ye news today
Brought from over sea, and ever I you pray:*

*Quoth I "Fellows mine, why this guise sit ye?
Making but dull cheer, shepherds though ye be."*

*Nowell! Sing we clear! Holpen all are folk on earth,
Born is God's Son so dear. Nowell! Sing we loud!
God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.*

*"Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing,
Thus to see ye sit, is a right strange thing."*

*Going o'er the hills, through the milk white snow,
Heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow;*

*Quoth these fellows then, "To Bethlehem we go
To see a mighty lord, lie in manger low."*

*Shepherds many a one sat among the sheep
No man spake more word than they had been asleep.*

*"How name ye this lord, shepherds?" then said I,
"Very God" they said, "Come from heaven high."*

*This is Christ the Lord, Masters be ye glad!
Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.*

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 or using this QR code:



*This Eucharistic
Prayer is adapted
from Steven
Shakespeare's
Prayers For An
Inclusive Church.*

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 God thanks and praise.

We thank you loving God, for you did not abandon us or stand far off but came in awful nearness with the urgency of love. In creation's dawn, you gave birth to all that is; to the people of Israel you revealed yourself and shared the human story.

Now we praise you for the Word made flesh born of Mary's body, nurtured in her womb, cradled in her arms, greeted by her song. The fullness of God dwells in his flesh, a touch of welcome for the one thrown aside, good news of bread for the hungry and poor, a shepherd to find those who are lost.

Now we are caught up, body and soul resound with the glory of music divine, echoing through the hallowed earth:

From Deutsche Messe by F. P. Schubert

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.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that they may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: **"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."**

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: **"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me."**

Therefore we proclaim him as creation's host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Author of blessings, for ever and 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,

**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?

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.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

For those of you online, you may partake in communion using your own bread and wine or any substitutes that are meaningful to you.

For those in the building, you have several options: 1) stay in your place and receive communion from a communion kit that you picked up in the entrance to the church, or 2) bring a communion kit with you to the gathering near the altar and receive it in the company of others, or 3) come up to the altar and receive a piece of pita or a gluten-free rice cracker, or 4) come up, receive a piece of pita and ask the celebrant to dip it in the chalice so you can receive the wine as well.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"HAVE YOU SEEN A CHILD?"

FROM "AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS" BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

SOPRANO: LAURA MUNSON; TENOR: JOHN CLAYTON; BASES: BRANDON MECKLENBURG, TIM LANE

Have you seen a child the color of wheat, the color of dawn?

His eyes are mild, His hands are those of a King, as King He was born.

Incense, myrrh, and gold we bring to His side, and the Eastern star is our guide.

Yes, I know a child the color of wheat, the color of dawn.
His eyes are mild, His hands are those of a King, as King He was born.

But no one will bring Him incense or gold, though sick and poor and hungry and cold.
He's my child, my son, my darling, my own.

Have you seen a child the color of earth, the color of thorn?

His eyes are sad, His hands are those of the poor, as poor He was born.

Yes, I know a child the color of earth, the color of thorn.

His eyes are sad, His hands are those of the poor, as poor He was born.

But no one will bring Him incense or gold, though sick and poor and hungry and cold.

He's my child, my son, my darling, my own.

The Child we seek holds the seas and the winds on His palm.

The Child we seek has the moon and the stars at His feet.

Before Him the eagle is gentle, the lion is meek.
Choirs of angels hover over His roof and sing Him to sleep.

He's warmed by breath, He's fed by Mother who is both virgin and queen.

The child I know
on his palm holds my heart.

The child I know at his feet has my life.

He is my child, my son, my darling, my own...
And his name is Amahl.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving is by Steven Shakespeare from his book Prayers for an Inclusive Church.

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Symbolizing the deep and abiding truth that even one small flame can enlighten the gravest darkness, we light our hand candles as we share a beloved carol. If you are nearest an aisle candle, please light your hand candle and pass the flame to those next to you.

HYMN

**Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

"SILENT NIGHT"

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

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

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

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

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

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

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

"WIZARDS IN WINTER" BY O'NEILL AND KINKEL

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Ansie Baird - in memory of Margaret De Morinni
Brian and Kelly Cardamone - in memory of Lillian and Christopher Mazur
Arlene Grasso - in memory of Margaret & Lawrence Aroneseno
Arlene Grasso - in memory of Alice, Donna, Jerry and Larry Aroneseno
Ginx Graves - in memory of my mother, Gerrie Graves
Susie & Richard Green - in memory of Irving & Bettsie Barrett, Judy Silver, Frank & Iris Green
Phoebe McKay - in memory of our parents
Judy & Chris Miller - in gratitude for Paul, Krista, the choir, and musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

As usual, there will be **no services held on Christmas Day**, neither Sunday 10:30am nor Trinity@7.

Wednesday, December 28 there will be no service this week.

Thursday, December 29 7:00pm service - 12 Steps@Trinity based on 12-step spirituality

Please note that on Sunday, January 1, there will be no nursery services nor Creator Quest during the 10:30 service and **no Trinity @7**.

SHOE FUNDRAISER

Our shoe collection drive is still short of our goal of 2,500 pairs. Please help Trinity to reach our fundraising goal of \$1,000! Clean out those closets; ask your families, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to donate gently used (no holes) or new shoes, sneakers, sandals, boots, and athletic footwear in any size. Shoes can be placed in the labeled collection bin in the Red-Carpet area on Sunday mornings. Please contact Erickson at ehc@buffalo.edu with questions. Thanks to all who've donated shoes!

WORSHIP HELPERS NEEDED

If you are planning to attend the 10:30am Sunday service in person and would like to be involved with reading from the altar or greeting people at the door and helping direct them with what to expect, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fafa629a3f58-trinity2> If you are interested in being more involved but aren't interested in either of these roles, you can also plan on helping during services by bringing a device to connect to Facebook viewers and respond to comments during the service.

Visiting Trinity

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.

Sign up [here](#) to get Trinity's eNews to stay in touch!



The
Analytical
Psychology
Society of
Western NY



**Join us for an evening of Irish music & poetry
in celebration of the Epiphany**



Friday, January 6, 2023

7 - 9 p.m.

**Trinity Episcopal Church
371 Delaware Ave., Buffalo**

**Music by Setanta, an Irish trio
Reflection by the Rev. Matt Lincoln
Holiday Refreshments**

Co-sponsors: Trinity Episcopal Church & the Jung Center of Buffalo

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

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John Clayton, Section Leader
Dan Galley
Steve Shanley
Brandon Mecklenburg, Section Leader
Timothy Lane
Tom Owen
Ignacio Villa

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Liturgists: Leslie Charlier, Bruce McKay
Readers: Missy Stolfi, Kelly Cardamone
Chalices: Christian Cuccia, Linda Wagner, Kelly Cardamone
Candle Lighting Elves: Jay Mpelezos, Sarah Caputi
Guest Musicians: Claire Fisher, violin; Nancy Baun, cello; Harry Fackelman, saxophone; John Hasselback, III, trumpet and flugelhorn
Counter: John Gillespie

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. We will not meet on December 25 or January 1. See you again on January 8, 2023.

Wednesday @Noon Thursday @7pm

Prayer and holy conversation, in person and on Zoom
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](#).