



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

+ + +

Everything you need for
worship is in this bulletin.

+ + +

All who trust that
Christ is present in Holy
Communion are invited to
receive Him with us today.

+ + +

Please silence your cell
phone.

+ + +

Children are always
welcome in our worship!
Classroom 4 in the Annex
has space for nursing,
changing, or a sensory
break, if necessary.

+ + +

Our AED is mounted on
the wall in the stairway
next to the baptismal font.

+ + +



At Trinity, we welcome
all LGBTQ+ people as
full participants in our
common life. We're proud
to proclaim this publicly in
our city and wider church
as a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM

ADVENT 3

DECEMBER 15, 2024

Congregational words are in bold print.

Please kneel or be seated.

PROCESSION

INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A solis ortus cardine

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrinia

Amy Stewart-Himes, soloist

*Lavacra puri gurgitis
caelestis agnus attigit,
peccata quae non detulit
nos abluendo sustulit.*

In holy Jordan's purest wave
the heavenly Lamb vouchsafed to lave;
That He, to whom was sin unknown,
might cleanse His people from their own.

PRAYER

Light of Light,
you vanquish the powers of evil
and leave our world cleansed.
Pour out your purifying light on us today;
fill us in body and mind.
Teach us to number our days
that we may have hearts of wisdom.
Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit

SUNG RESPONSE - ELW 490 - Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Stanza 3



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

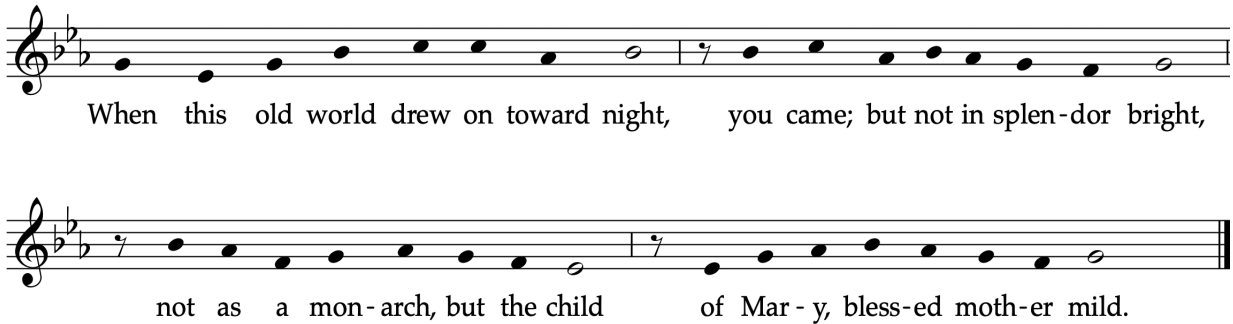
After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - ELW 245 - Creator of the Stars of Night



When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splen-dor bright,
not as a mon-arch, but the child of Mar-y, bless-ed moth-er mild.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: Plainsong mode IV

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM
LM

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW 254 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Please kneel or be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

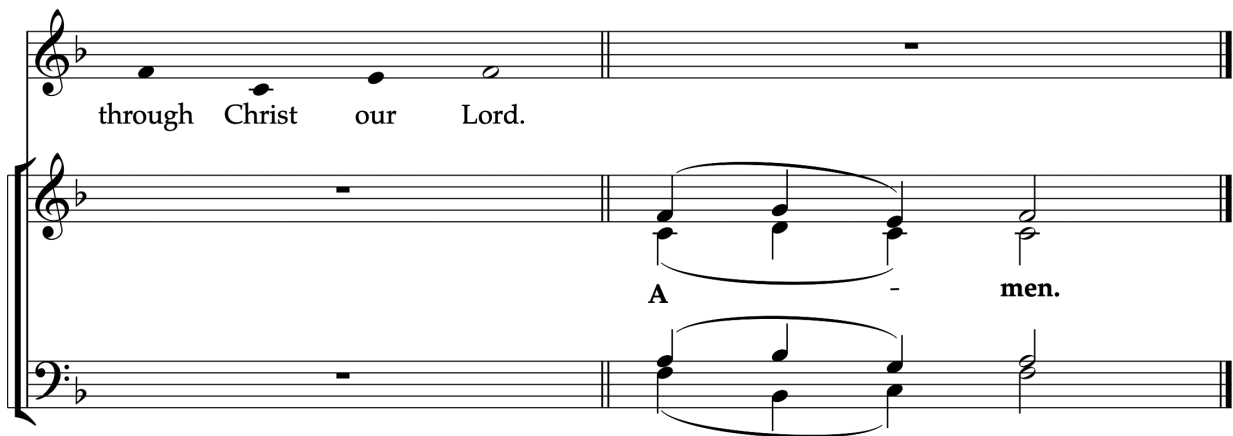
The Assisting Minister chants the prayer petitions. Each petition concludes:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) with a treble clef. It contains the lyrics "In peace, let us pray to the Lord." The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment in G major with a treble and bass clef respectively. The piano part features a simple harmonic accompaniment with a final cadence on the word "cy.".

After the final petition:



through Christ our Lord.
A - men.

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) with a treble clef. It contains the lyrics "through Christ our Lord." The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment in G major with a treble and bass clef respectively. The piano part features a simple harmonic accompaniment with a final cadence on the word "men.".

Please stand in body or spirit.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet one another and then be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Adam Gumpeltzhaimer

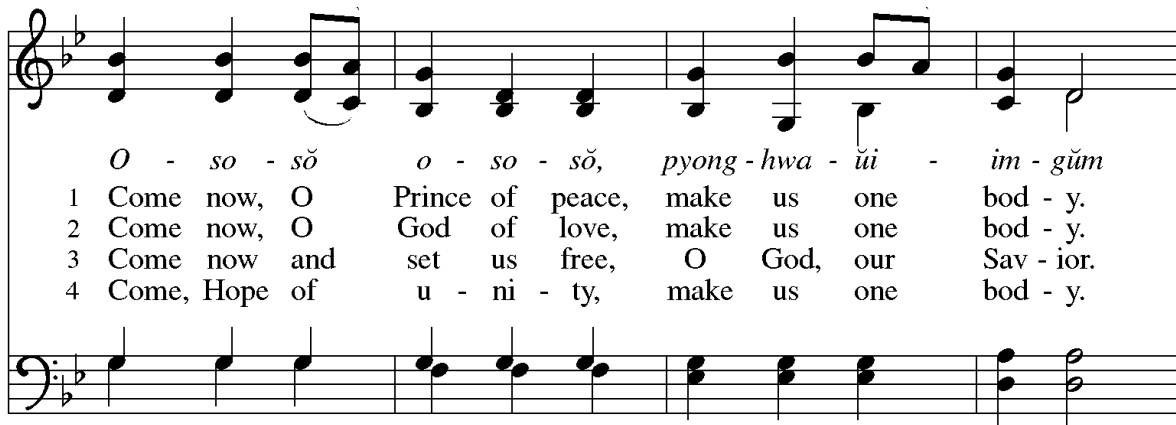
The Trinity Choir

See ELW 244 for text.

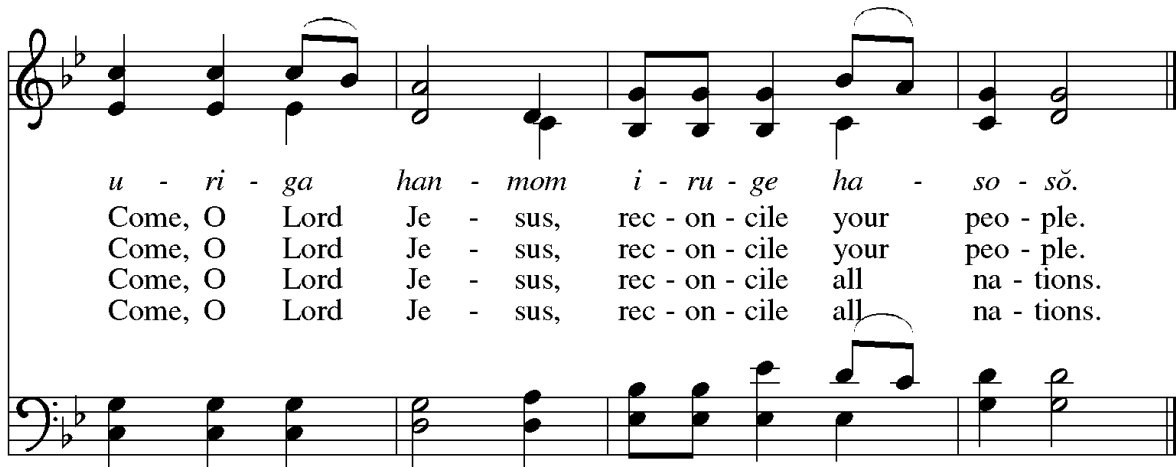
Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE - ELW 247 - Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Stanza 3



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DIALOG

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us...

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

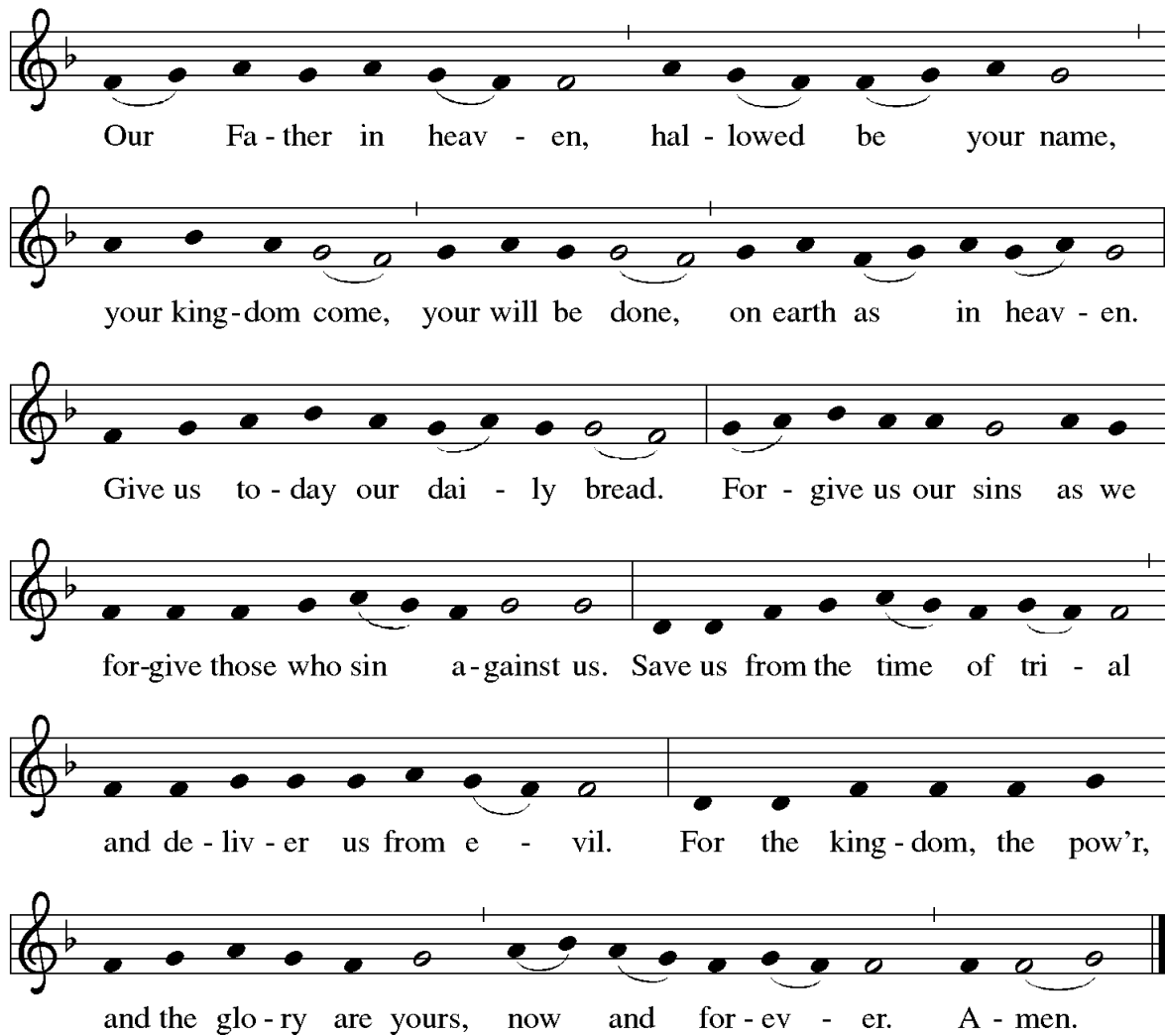
All glory and praise are yours...

Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

Be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.

When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.

Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION - ELW 261 - As the Dark Awaits the Dawn



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
 2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
 3 As the moon re - flects the sun
 4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
 un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
 en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Please stand in body or spirit.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN - ELW 552 - Blessed Be the God of Israel - *see page 13*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

David Lasky

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Hintz Room immediately following worship.

+ + +

SENDING HYMN - ELW 552 - Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68–79

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Sunday, December 15 - Advent 3

Leaders in Today's Liturgy

Presiding and Preaching: Pr. Hans E. Becklin

Assisting Minister: Fred Opalinski

Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger

Cantor-elect: Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

Lector: Steve Welz

Communion Assistant: Jeff Wasmuth

Acolyte: Abbie Smith

Greeter: Pam Wasmuth

Ushers: Raye Watson and Anita Dolak

Media Team: Steve Hofmann,

Declan Rosenbaum and Veronika Shick

Altar Guild: Michael Faust, Linda Grim,

Erica Hofmann, Amy Litvinov and Doris Strobel

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Tony, Sherri, Ali & Meg Sacco in loving memory of Joseph Sacco, Tony's father

Today's broadcast is sponsored by Donna Osborne to all who prepare for His coming among us

The chancel and font trees are sponsored by Donna Osborne in honor of Karen Eddinger's music ministry at Trinity.

The Welcome Center Christmas Tree given in memory of Pastors Judy McKee and Walter Carlson by Fred & Jan Opalinski

Attendance Sunday, December 8: 104

Attendance Wednesday, December 11: 13

Immediate Prayer Requests

Nancy Souders-Negri & Fred Negri, Ed & Peg Coleman, Mike Hummel, and Barry Freeman (friends of Karen Eddinger)

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Donna Osborne, Linda Motley, Darryl Jeffries, Chris Drayer, Harry Feinauer, Walter Schur, Celia Cosentino (friend of Jane Zobian), Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith), the Sawyer family, David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh), Christine Wells (friend of Jan Opalinski), and Craig Poole

Trinity Households and Ministry Partners

Matt, Jen, Nick and Tyler Mellen and Kaitlyn and Steven Grace; Carol Miller; Jon Mosbo; Josh, Christine, Jacinda & Cecilia Motley; and Linda Motley; homebound members Chris Drayer, Joan Goncher, Walter Schur, and Noreen Showalter; Christ Episcopal Church and Fr. Bryce Wandrey; the Common Ground Recovery Community, Pr. Tom Scornavacchi and Pr. Jayme Babczak

Prepare for Worship December 22

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Broadcast Schedule for this week on Comcast Channel 190

Sundays

6:00 PM "World Views" from Muhlenberg College:
Local Hindu Temple Ritual and Practice

6:30 PM Music From Trinity:
Robin Bier, Contralto and David Lutz, Collaborative Pianist

7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

5:00 PM Music From Trinity:
Robin Bier, Contralto and David Lutz, Collaborative Pianist

5:30 PM "World Views" from Muhlenberg College:
Local Hindu Temple Ritual and Practice

Trinity's Sunday morning worship is also live streamed via Facebook and YouTube. You may log on to either platform on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and worship at the same time as the in-person congregation.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, December 15

9:00 AM: Sunday Forum (All Saints Room)
9:00 AM: Sunday Time
9:00 AM: Trinity Orchestra Rehearsal (Bard House)
10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
11:15 AM: Mixed Ensemble Rehearsal (Nave)
11:15 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)
2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

Monday, December 16

1:00 PM: Program Staff Meeting
7:00 PM: Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

9:30 AM: Full Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

12:05 PM: Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
6:30 PM: Trinity Ringers (Nave)
7:30 PM: Trinity Choir Rehearsal (Nave)

Thursday, December 19

4:00 PM: Property Committee Meeting

Friday, December 20

7:00 PM: Wolfe Series Concert: Christmas Bells are Ringing (Nave)

Sunday, December 22

9:00 AM: Sunday Forum (All Saints Room)
9:00 AM: Sunday Time
9:00 AM: Trinity Orchestra Rehearsal (Balcony)
10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
11:15 AM: Mixed Ensemble Rehearsal (Nave)
11:15 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)
2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

Christmas Bells are Ringing

Friday, December 20, 7:00 PM in the Trinity nave

The final Rändel Wolfe concert of 2024 will feature the renowned handbell soloist Ron Bellamy, accompanied by his wife, pianist Linda Lorgus. Together they will share Christmas carols and songs that will be sure to have you in the Christmas spirit! Join us and help support the important work of Family Promise of Berks County!

Christmas Eve: The Traditions Continue!

As folks gather for 5:00 PM worship, the Trinity Brass playing on the portico will welcome folks with traditional Christmas carols. Our worship time will start with a selection by the intergenerational Trinity Orchestra under the direction of David Himes. The service will be filled with traditional carols, a musical offering by the Mixed Ensemble, communion, candlelight and *Silent Night*.

The later service begins at 10:00 PM with a half hour of music by the Trinity Choir, Trinity Ringers, Trinity Handbell Quartet, and a piano solo by Julianne Michalik Maggio. Choral music will include: *Hodie, Christus natus est* - Healey Willan, *O Magnum Mysterium* - Tomas Luis de Victoria, *Where Riches Is Everlasting* and *Jesus Springing* - Bob Chilcott, and *What Sweeter Music* - John Rutter. Handbell selections will include *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* - Lloyd Larson, *I Wonder as I Wander* - Peggy Bettcher, and *Noël Nouvelet (Sing We Now of Christmas)* - Anne Krentz Organ. Other special music will include *This Holy Night* by Scott Weidler chanted by Ben Hoover, a piano solo by Sandra Sittler, *Silent Night*, and *Morning Softly Awakens*. The final hymn, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, will swell to a final Paean on that hymn by John Cook.

Sunday Forum in December

December 15 and 22: Jesus is Coming–But How?

Join Pr. Hans in Sunday forum for a Bible Study on Jesus' return, one of the key themes of Advent. There is a lot of misinformation out there—from the idea of a "Rapture" to the idea that Jesus might not come back, after all. We'll study Matthew 24:29-31, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, and Revelation 1:7-8 as our key passages—bring your Bible!

Lessons and Carols - December 29

The Sunday after Christmas will feature a service of traditional lessons and carols.

What will be special about this service is it will be the first full service played by Trinity's new Cantor, Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz, and Karen Eddinger's final service with us. The service will also feature the Trinity Choir and Mixed Ensemble premiering Anne Krentz Organ's *We Come to Your Table*, a piece commissioned by Trinity in honor of Karen Eddinger's faithful service as Minister of Music.

Vox Philia: A Christmas Garland Concert

Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 PM at Immanuel UCC in Shillington. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$5 students.

Several Trinity folks sing with this chamber choir including Dave Himes and Amy Stewart-Himes, Deborah and Peter Graf, Tama McConnell, and Tate Dewalt. Our concert is built around John Whittaker's "A Christmas Garland." This will be its world premiere. While Whittaker's music shares similarities to the sound world of Vaughan Williams, he has his own distinct and beautiful compositional voice. We also explore two Christmas texts (There is No Rose & Make We Joy) by singing three settings of each, including one by Lancaster-based composer (and Vox tenor) Lyndon Gehman. And we will premiere a new carol arrangement by our composer-in-residence, David A. Himes. Proceeds benefit Refresh! Berks, a mobile shower trailer traveling throughout Berks County.

Staff of Trinity Lutheran Church

The Rev. Hans E. Becklin	Senior Pastor
Deaconess Deborah Graf	Deacon for Formation & Service
Karen S. Eddinger	Minister of Music
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz	Cantor-elect
Matthew Mellen	Media Director
Rachel Gambone	Parish Secretary
Pam Wasmuth	Bookkeeper
Peter Graf	Financial Administrator
Dave Troche	Sexton

The Rev. Fred S. Opalinski Pastor Emeritus