



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

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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 4

DECEMBER 22, 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

Hannah Long, soloist

*Clausae parentis viscera
caelestis intrat gratia;
venter puellae baiulat
secreta quae non noverat.*

In that chaste parent's holy womb,
Celestial grace hath found its home:
And she, as earthly bride unknown,
Yet call that Offspring blest her own.

PRAYER

Lord Most High,
with all the company of Heaven
we gather today to praise you.
Make us into living sacrifices
that are worthy to stand before Your throne.
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 4



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

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 1:39-55

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

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 265 - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

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-clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains the lyrics "In peace, let us pray to the Lord." followed by a double bar line. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment in G-clef and F-clef respectively, with a key signature of one flat. They play chords corresponding to the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy." and end with a fermata over the final note.

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-clef with a key signature of one flat. It contains the lyrics "through Christ our Lord." followed by a double bar line. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment in G-clef and F-clef respectively, with a key signature of one flat. They play chords corresponding to the lyrics "A - men." and end with a fermata over the final note.

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Jonathan Campbell

The Trinity Choir

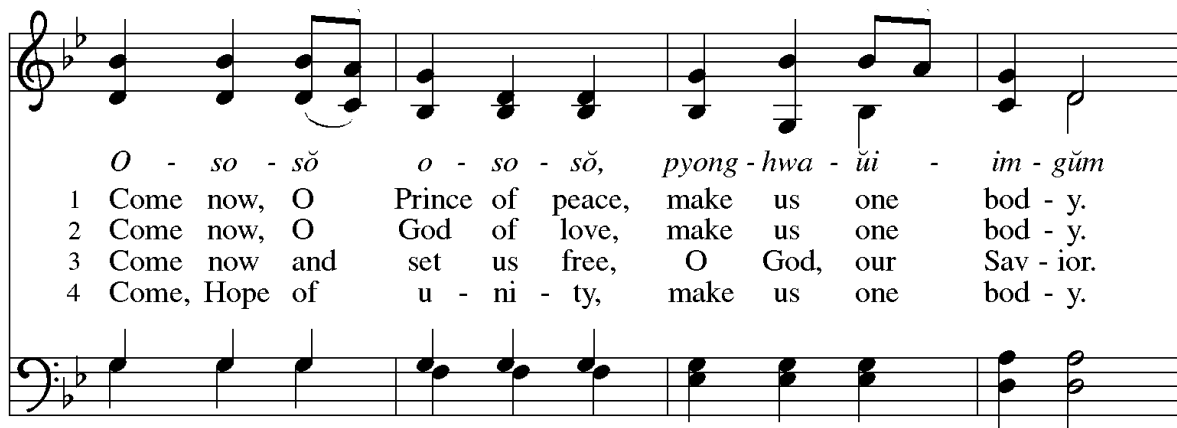
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz, organ David Himes, tambourine

See ELW 254 for text.

Please stand in body or spirit.

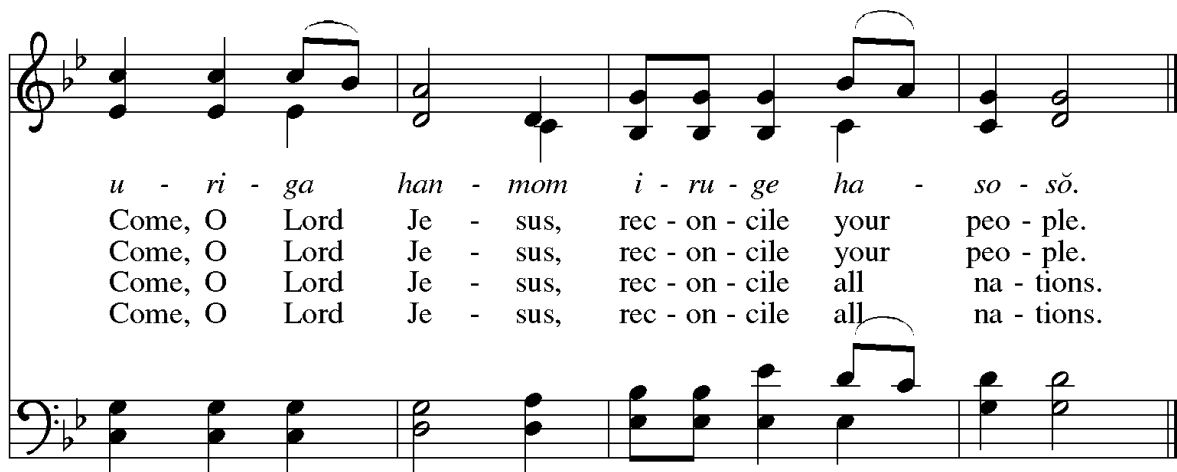
OFFERTORY RESPONSE - ELW 247 - Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Stanza 4



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.



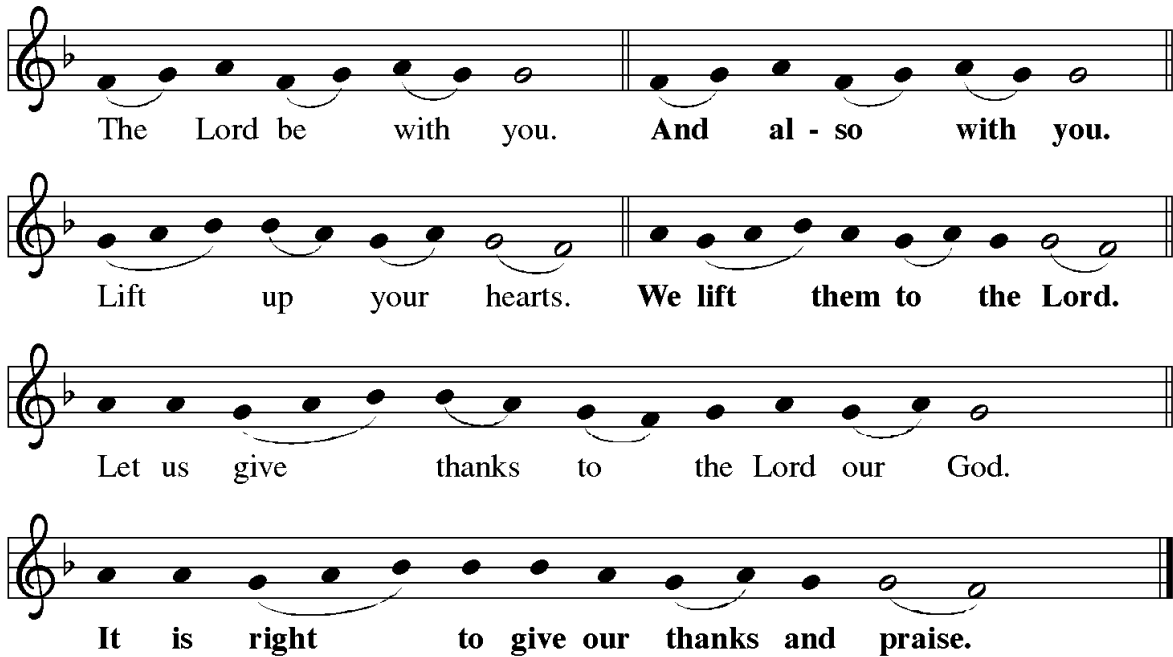
u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

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 - ACS 907 - Filled with Hope and Gratitude



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y



God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -



ta - tion, for God has smiled up -
pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and
hun - gry. The prom - ise to our
ta - tion, for God has smiled up -



on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her



own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981, based on Luke 1:46-55

Music: ADVENT MAGNIFICAT, Paul Damico-Carper

Text and music © 2013 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 251 - My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness - *see page 13*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

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

+ + +

SENDING HYMN - ELW 251 - My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

Sunday, December 22 - Advent 4

Leaders in Today's Liturgy

Presiding: Pr. Hans E. Becklin

Preaching and Assisting: Dcs. Deborah Graf

Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger

Cantor-elect: Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

Lector: Donna Osborne

Communion Assistant: Pam Wasmuth

Acolyte: Jacinda Motley

Greeter: Jeff Wasmuth

Ushers: Josh & Christine Motley

Media Team: Amy Bornhofen, Danielle Smith and Jennifer Smith

Altar Guild: Michael Faust, Linda Grim, Erica Hofmann, Amy Litvinov and Doris Strobel

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by the Evans-Long-Rogers Family in loving memory of Beth Evans

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 is given in memory of Pastors Judy McKee and Walter Carlson by Fred & Jan Opalinski

Attendance Sunday, December 15: 98

Attendance Wednesday, December 18: 14

Immediate Prayer Requests

Ed & Peg Coleman and Mike Hummel (friend of Karen Eddinger)

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Nancy Souders-Negri & Fred Negri, 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

Craig & Robin Oberholtzer; Michelle, Shea & Teagan O'Brien; Fred, Jan, Kristen & Megan Opalinski; Donna Osborne; and Jean & Richard Palmer, Jr.; Christ Episcopal Church and Fr. Bryce Wandrey; the Common Ground Recovery Community, Pr. Tom Scornavacchi and Pr. Jayme Babczak

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 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)
11:45 AM: Trinity Choir Rehearsal
2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

Monday, December 23

1:00 PM: Program Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 24

Church office closes at noon.
5:00 PM: Christmas Eve Worship (Nave)
10:00 PM: Musical Prelude (Nave)
10:30 PM: Christmas Eve Worship (Nave)

Wednesday, December 25

Church office is closed.

Thursday, December 26

Church office closed.

Sunday, December 29

10:00 AM: Worship: Lessons & Carols (Nave)
11:15 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)
2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

**Church office closes at noon on December 31
and all day on January 1**

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.

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.

Sunday Forum December 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!

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.

Save the Date: Worship Volunteer Training & Social January 11th!

10 AM to noon, Saturday, January 11th in the nave

Whether you're a lector, acolyte, assisting minister, communion assistant, usher, or do many of those roles, plan to join us for a brief refresher on serving in worship from 10 AM to noon on Saturday, January 11th.

The brief trainings will take place in the sanctuary while those not being trained enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, and treats in the Hintz Room. This means that if you and your family participate in multiple ways, you'll be able to enjoy a time of fellowship during the "down time". We plan to offer this annually as a way of maintaining our skills!

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

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