

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2022

10:00 P.M.

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A PLACE OF WELCOME, HOPE & HEALING



120 Sigourney Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06105-2796  
860.527.8133    [www.trinityhartford.org](http://www.trinityhartford.org)

## Welcome!

Whether this is your first time at Trinity, your first time in a long time, or if you're here every week, we are delighted that you are worshipping with us today.

**WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS** If you are new to Trinity, we hope that you will introduce yourself and sign one of the guest books at either entrance to the Church. Restrooms are located in two places. Exit through the rear doors of the Sanctuary and go to your right. The white doors on your left are the restrooms. Restrooms can also be found if you exit the door at the front right of the Sanctuary and go down the hall toward the exit to the parking lot. The restrooms are on your right once you pass the fireplace.

**MASK POLICY** Masks at indoor services are strongly encouraged.

**NAMETAGS** In order to make it easier for us to get to know each other, we ask everyone to wear a nametag. If you do not have a reusable nametag, there are stickers and markers at each entrance. If you would like to have a reusable nametag made for you, please print your name on the clipboard next to the trays of reusable nametags.

**KIDS IN CHURCH** Copies of 'The Sunday Paper Junior' coloring sheets and crayons are available at each Sanctuary entrance. Each week the coloring sheet will highlight an aspect of the Scripture for the day and includes notes to help parents talk to their kids about the theme. Please feel free to let your kids color and otherwise be themselves during the worship service. All are welcome as they are, including kids!

**ABOUT OUR WORSHIP** Most of the worship service is printed in this leaflet. Music that is not printed in the leaflet can be found in *The Hymnal 1982* (the red book on the shelf under the chair in front of you) or in *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* (the red, black, and green book found on a cart at each entrance). We stand, if able, for the hymns and stand or kneel, according to one's personal tradition, for prayer.

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CHRISTMAS EVE  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

DECEMBER 24, 2022

10:00 P.M.

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CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE

9:30 P.M.

Dancing Day - John Rutter (b. 1945)

*The Choir School of Hartford and Sena Hornby, harpist*

- I. Prelude
- II. Angelus ad virginem
- III. A Virgin Most Pure
- IV. Personent Hodie
- V. Interlude
- VI. There Is No Rose
- VII. Coventry Carol
- VIII. Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Lo, How a Rose e're Blooming

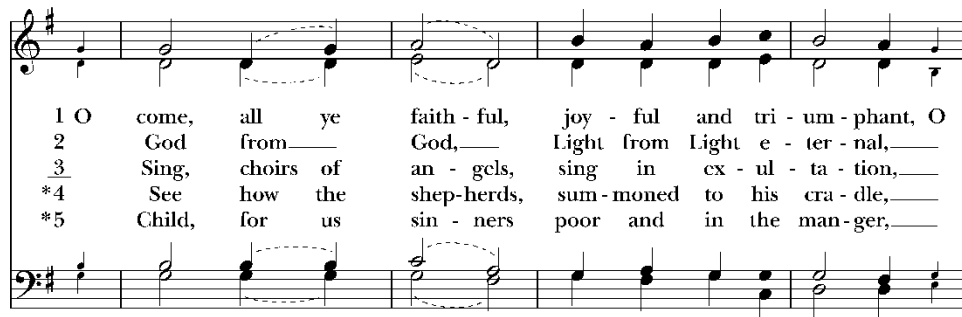
Trad.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

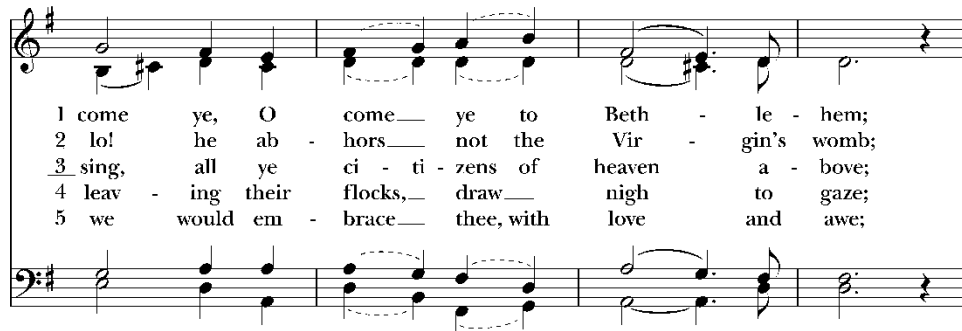
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

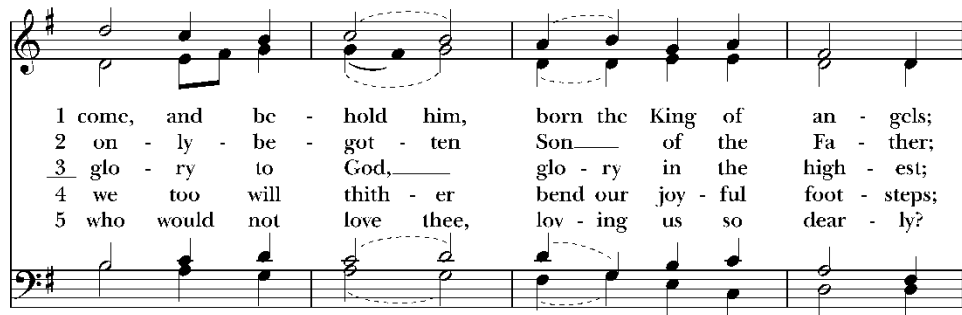
Hymnal 1982 #83



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —  
 \*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —  
 \*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —



1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;  
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

*Refrain*

Presider Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

People *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

All Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High  
Verse 1

1982 Hymnal #96

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
*Refrain*  
Glo - - - - - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -  
- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo and mood are indicated by the lyrics and the structure of the piece. The score includes a verse and a refrain. The verse consists of two lines of music. The refrain is marked with a bracket and the word 'Refrain' above it. It consists of two lines of music, each with a long melisma (indicated by a series of dashes) before the final note. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People *Amen.*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader  
*People*

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



- 1 (Sing to) the / LORD a / new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, / all the / whole / earth.
  - 2 Sing to the / LORD and / bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salva/tion from / day to / day.
  - 3 Declare his glory a/mong the / nations \*  
and his wonders a/mong all / peo/ples.
  - 4 For great is the LORD and / greatly / to be / praised; \*  
he is more to be / feared than / all / gods.
  - 5 As for all the gods of the nations, / they are but / idols; \*  
but it is the / LORD who / made the / heavens.
  - 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence / of his / presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor / of his / sanctu/ary!
  - 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families / of the / peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD / honor / and / power.
  - 8 Ascribe to the LORD the / honor / due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and / come in/to his / courts.
  - 9 Worship the LORD in the / beauty of / holiness; \*  
let the / whole earth / tremble be/fore him.
  - 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The / LORD is / King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; ✓  
he will judge the / peoples / with / equity."
  - 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; ✓  
let the sea thunder and / all that is / in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and / all that / is / therein.
  - 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the / LORD when / he comes, \*  
when he / comes to / judge the / earth.
  - 13 He will judge the / world with / righteousness \*  
and the / peoples / with his / truth.
- Glory / be to the / Father\*  
and to the Son and / to the / Holy / Ghost;
- As it was in the beginning, is now, and / ever / shall be,\*  
world without / end. A/men.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

## SEQUENCE HYMN

## Angels from the Realm of Glory

## Hymnal 1982 #93

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*  
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
 ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).



Gospeler      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People*        *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeler      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*        *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

SERMON

The Rev. D. Littlepage

*Silence for reflection.*

*All* We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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\*This version of the Nicene Creed is from one of the sources that has been approved for use by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The most significant difference is that this version changes 'who proceeds from the Father and the Son' to 'who proceeds from the Father.' This change restores the Creed to the version that was originally accepted by both Western and Eastern Orthodox Churches. (The phrase 'of the Son' was added a few hundred years later by a regional synod and was never adopted by Eastern Orthodox Churches).

*In the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

Intercessor I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

Intercessor I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

Intercessor I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

Intercessor I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

*Silence*

Intercessor I ask your prayers for the departed, and all killed by gun violence in the past week. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

Intercessor Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The Presider adds a concluding Collect.*

## THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
 People *And also with you.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Sweeter Music

Michael Fink

*Sena Hornby, harpist*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

Presider The Lord be with you.  
 People *And also with you.*

Presider Lift up your hearts.  
 People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

1982 Hymnal #S130

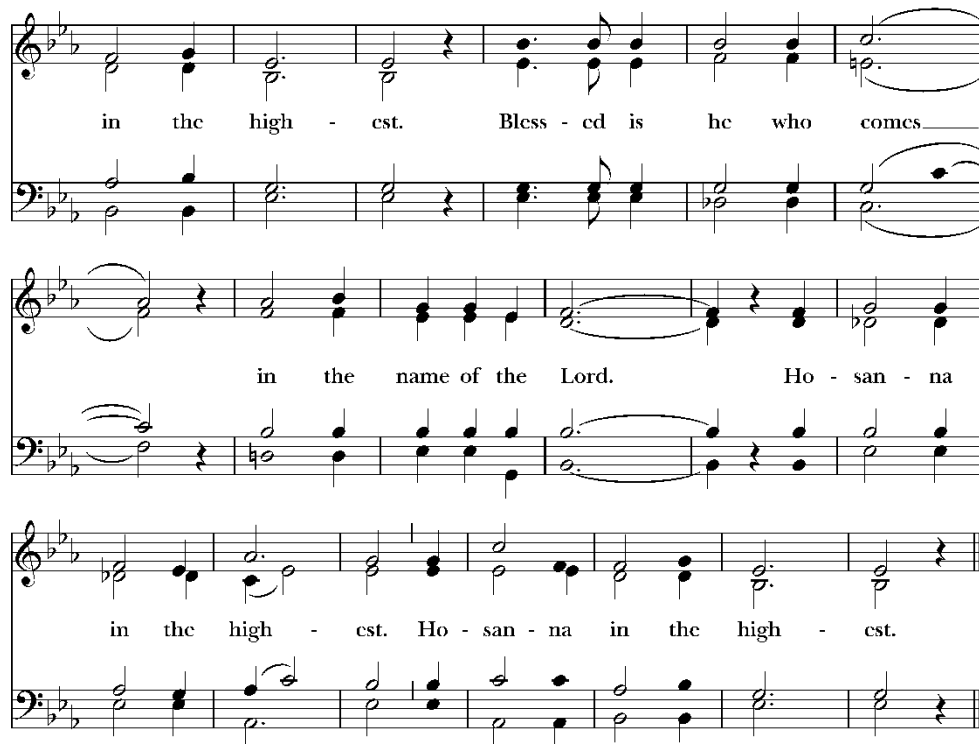
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

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



*The people stand or kneel.*

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command,

*All We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;*

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People* AMEN.

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
*All* Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Presider      The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail. If you would like to have a blessing instead of receiving Communion, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available on request. We are offering wine and grape juice by intinction only. Please remember that if you do not wish to receive wine, receiving Bread only imparts the full benefit of the Sacrament.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

We Three Kings

Stephen Paulus

*Sena Hornby, harpist  
Ash de las Casas, clarinet*

Midwinter

Bob Chilcott (1955)

*Krista Mogor and Olivia Mogor, Soloists*

Presider Let us pray.

*All* Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

Presider May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

*People* Amen.

Presider May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

*People* Amen.

Presider May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

*People* Amen.

Presider And the blessing of God Almighty, the Eternal Majesty, the Incarnate Word, and the Ever-Abiding Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

*People* Amen.





Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,  
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*We invite you to carry the light of Christ out into the world in your hearts and actions,  
and to place your extinguished candle in the receptacles located by the doors.*

## THE DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

## POSTLUDE

Silent Night

Gunther Martin Gottsche (b. 1953)

*You may choose to stay for the postlude (and express a spoken “amen” afterward if you’d like),  
but it is never expected! You may leave after the final hymn if you’d rather.  
Please feel comfortable to make whatever choice is best for you.*



## LET US PRAY

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for Torshie Torto; Angelo, Emily, Peter, Hunter, Logan & Grace Troiano; Jake Troiano and the Goodwin Legacy Circle.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Mark's, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol/Plainville; St. Paul's, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn and for soup kitchens and food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Anglican Church of Melanesia.

### We pray for

Margaret Daniel  
Tony Charron Vreeland  
(son of Peter Vreeland)  
Cheryl Russo  
Esther  
Nancy Miller  
Winifred Costa  
Jacqui Lucier  
John E. Robinson  
Grace Crooks  
Jay W  
Philip Green (son of Peter &  
Anne Green)  
Nora Baldwin  
Stephanie Holland (niece of  
Kitty Peterson)

Elizabeth Mackie  
Sandy Cone Foley  
J.B. Parke  
Laurie Lavoie  
Paulette McCurdy  
Rhonda McKenzie  
Carmen Belgrave  
The Nielsen Family  
Linda Cushner  
Ann Deely  
Kate Smith  
Sam Hines and Yoleanna Russo  
Juli Porter  
Juhudi Mgombo  
Fred Margeson  
Jennifer Stephens  
Zechariah Stephens  
Katie Reynolds

Tori and Trevor Henry  
Louise Krippenstapel  
Carlene Lewis  
Judy Miller  
Valentina Moore  
Helen Strassner  
Lindsey Tengtenga  
Alice Turcotte  
Richard Green (brother of  
Peter Green)  
Donald Bowens (son of  
Dianne Bowens-Waller)  
Bill McMunn  
Richard Alan Garver  
Diane Bowens-Waller  
Peter Vreeland  
Raldah Stephens  
Joan and Ean Walsh (family of  
Jennifer Stephens)

### Special Prayer Request

A member of our parish, Jacqui Lucier has advanced kidney disease and is in need of a transplant.

As we pray for Jacqui, we also ask that you prayerfully consider being screened as a potential kidney donor. **For more information about living organ donation and to sign up to be screened, please visit <https://nkr.org/SBB483>**. Please encourage your friends and family to consider donor screening.

**+ ASSISTING AT WORSHIP +**

**The Rev. D. Littlepage – Presider & Preacher**

**Readers**

George Chien  
Boo Morton

**Intercessor**

Suzanne Blancaflor

**Ministers of Communion**

Marcus Clark

**Verger**

Cathy Rowe

**Director of Music**

Michelle Horsley

**Virtual Verger**

Casey Rousseau, Jake Troiano

**Altar Flowers**

The Flower Guild of Trinity Church

Harpist Sena Hornby has been committed to spreading her beautiful sound throughout the New England area. She earned her Bachelor of Music from the University of Connecticut and her Master of Music at The Boston Conservatory. As an orchestral harpist, Ms. Hornby has the privilege of serving as the principal harpist for the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra as well as the Connecticut Lyric Opera. In the past she has graced such venues as Boston's Symphony Hall and New York's Carnegie Hall, and has participated in multiple world premieres of new works, such as the musical *A Connecticut Christmas Carol* with Goodspeed Musicals.

The words of the service are taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Scripture quotations are from the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible* © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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**Cover Art:** We are grateful to The Rev. George Chien (UMC, MCC) for creating the artwork on the cover.

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## **Giving Tree Gifts Delivered!**

All the gifts requested by Trinity Academy and Covenant to Care on our Giving Tree have been delivered to those organizations, with even a few extras. Thank you for your generosity!

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## Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Christmas message 2022: 'Love always'

*The following is a transcript of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's recorded Christmas message for 2022.*

There is a Christmas carol not that well known here in the States, maybe better known in Great Britain, that says quite simply, "Love came down at Christmas. Love all lovely. Love divine. Love was born at Christmas. Star and angel gave the sign. Love came down at Christmas."

The older I get, the more I am convinced that God came into this world in the person of Jesus for one reason, and one reason alone: to show us the way to be reconciled and in right relationship with the God who is the creator of us all, and with each other as children of that one God who is the creator of us all, and of all things.

Jesus came to show us how to live, reconciled with God, and with each other, and He taught us that the way to do it is God's way of love. For God's way of love is God's way of life. It's our hope for our families, our communities, our societies. Indeed, it is our hope for the whole world. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, and love came down at Christmas.

Now, look, I'm 69 years old. I've been around the block a little bit. I know that sounds nice, sounds like the kind of thing we say in church. It sounds nice, but naive, idealistic but unrealistic, and yet, consider the alternative. Need I just simply say the names? Uvalde, Vestavia Hills, Tree of Life Synagogue, Club Q in Colorado Springs, Ukraine.

Now, God's way of love is not naive, it is not unrealistic, it's the way. It's the way to life for us all. Dr. King once said, "Darkness cannot cast out darkness; only light can do that. And hatred cannot cast out hatred; only love can do that." Love came down at Christmas. And as some of us are beginning to say in this Episcopal church of ours, "Love always."

Earlier this year, I went to Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston to be part of the seventh commemoration of the murders of the martyrs of Charleston. You may remember that a number of years ago, while members of that church had gathered for Bible study, a man came in and they welcomed him in, and invited him to join them, and he turned on them, and he killed many.

It was the seventh commemoration to both honor and remember those who had died, to give God thanks for those who helped—first responders, medical persons—but it was also something else. It was a time to commit ourselves, not simply to throw up our hands in despair, but to reach out our hands to each other, to roll up our sleeves, to take God's hand and take each other's hand and do the hard and holy work of love, which brings healing, which brings hope, which binds us together, and lifts us up to be all that God dreams and intends for us all to be.

Love came down at Christmas. Love always, because love is the way. It is the way that Jesus taught us based on the ancient teachings of Moses, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself," for on these two hang, depend, all the law, all the prophets, everything that God intends because God is love.

Love came down at Christmas and so let this Christmas be a moment of rededication to the work of love in the world. As Howard Thurman wrote long ago, "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star and the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are at home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then 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 others, to make music in the heart."

For love came down at Christmas, and our work is to love always. God love you. God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love. Merry Christmas.

**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry**

**Presiding Bishop and Primate**

**The Episcopal Church**

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**THE 2022 CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND FLOWERS  
HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**



Susan C. Barnes  
H. Mae Brown  
William Crandall  
Henry Cummings  
Neil Joseph Foster  
Arnold & Kathleen Gleave  
Edward Groenert  
Ruth H. Holston

Elizabeth Johnson  
Hal, Pat, David & Kevin Nelson  
Andrew Onderdonk  
Hector Phelps  
Henry Randall  
Ethel Holsten Randall  
Henry Randall III  
Frances Neail Randall

Janet Rice  
Myron Rice  
David & Ian Robinson  
William A. & Lillian C. Sandford  
Margaret Schul  
Steve Smith  
Ronald & Elizabeth Steven  
Sarah J. Trafford  
Bernard W. Trafford  
Bruce & Kathleen Wilson  
Galina Zhidkova  
Oleg Zhidkov  
The parents of Anne Rapkin and Steve Zhitnik

**AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR:**

The Music Ministry of Michelle Horsley  
The Trinity Church Office Volunteers:  
Penny Pearson, Jo-Ann Sadosky & Percy Williamson  
Family and Friends from the past, the present and yet to come

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup></b> 10:00 A.M.	<b>Christmas Day</b> Holy Eucharist Rite II (Church) <b>One Service Only</b>
<b>Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Office Closed – Christmas Holiday Observed</b>
<b>Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup></b> 12:00 P.M.	Noonday Prayer (Chapel)
<b>Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup></b> 7:00 P.M.	NA Group Meeting (Huntington Hall)
<b>Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup></b> 10:00 A.M.	<b>The Feast of the Holy Name - New Year's Day</b> Holy Eucharist Rite II (Church) <b>One Service Only</b>

## Vestry of Trinity Church

Leslyn Clark, Warden \* Timothy Watt, Warden \* Kitty Peterson, Clerk  
Casey Rousseau, Treasurer \* Jake Troiano, Assistant Treasurer  
Althea Francis \* Heather Kramer \* Marsha McCurdy Adell  
Suzanne Blancaflor \* Valerie Pogue \* Jennifer Stephens  
Casandra Joseph \* Jacqueline Lucier



Make a Pledge



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