

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2021

10:00 PM

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You have caused this holy night to shine with the  
brightness of the true Light

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 worshiping with us.

**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 now required for those who are vaccinated and non-vaccinated.

**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 available at each Sanctuary entrance. Each week the coloring sheet will highlight some 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, 2021

10:00 PM

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PRELUDE

9:30pm

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	Traditional, 17 <sup>th</sup> c.
Chorale Prelude on "Es ist ein Ros" Op. 122	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
See Amid the Winter's Snow	John Goss, arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)
In Dulci Jubilo	Michael Praetorius (1549-1611), adpt. Christopher Moore
Chorale Prelude on "Greensleeves"	Searle Wright (1918-2004)
Gaudete (from <i>Piae Cantiones</i> )	Traditional, 16 <sup>th</sup> c.
Resonemus Laudibus	Traditional, 14 <sup>th</sup> c., arr. David Willcocks
Awake, Thou Wintry Earth	J.S. Bach (1685-1750), arr. Roberta Bitgood (1907-2008)
O Magnum Mysterium	Giovanni Gabrieli (1555-1612), arr. S. Drummond Wolff (1916-2004)

Ensemble: Martha Freimuth, soprano; Ash de las Casas, alto; Alan Rice, bass

Brass Quintet: Frank Tamburro, trumpet I; Dave McCabe, trumpet II;  
Roger Caruk, horn; Topher Logan, trombone; Don Robinson, bass trombone

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1982 Hymnal #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 only)

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Presider 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      Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*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 Realms of Glory

## 1982 Hymnal #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.



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).

Intercessor Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially the Rev. Helen Moore, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**People** *Hear our prayer.*

*Silence. The people are invited to add their petitions silently or aloud.*

*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      Torches, Torches

John Joubert (1963-1996)

*Torches, torches, run with torches  
All the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;  
Come and 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 our Rorro.*

*Torches, torches, run with torches  
All the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;  
Come and sing your song to Him!*

*Sing, my friends, and make you merry,  
Joy and mirth and joy again;  
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven,  
Now and evermore. Amen.*

### 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 our 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:

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 - 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.

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, O Father,

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

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 sons and daughters; 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  
*All*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
**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.**

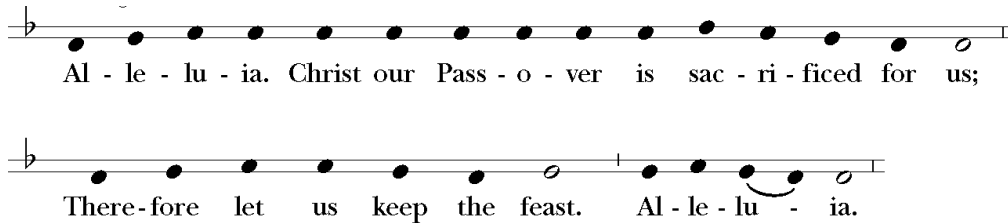
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

### FRACTION ANTHEM

1982 Hymnal #S152



*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.*

Presider      The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### COMMUNION MUSIC

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Celine Stephens, soloist

*In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,  
A breast full of milk and a manger full of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom Angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*Angels and Archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But only His Mother in her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*

### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -

2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our

\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and

songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -

fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far

na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture

peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing

as the curse is found, far as the curse is

won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and

2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -

3 far as the curse is found, far

4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.

joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

found, far as, far as the curse is found.

love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

peat the sound - ing joy,

as the curse is found,

won - ders of his love,



## 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.*

## HYMN

### Silent Night

1982 Hymnal #111

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. born! birth. Sleep Christ, in hea - ven - ly peace.  
Je - sus, the Sa - vior, is born! birth. Lord, at thy birth.

*Please extinguish your candles by waving your hand back and forth over it instead of blowing on it. 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                      Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht (Op. 55, No. 8                      Gunther Gottsche (b. 1953)



### + LITURGICAL LEADERS +

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

#### **Readers**

Boo Morton  
Kate Byroade

#### **Intercessor**

Alan Rice

#### **Music Director**

Michelle Horsley

#### **Altar Flowers**

George Chien, Percy Williamson

#### **Virtual Vergers**

Casey Rousseau, Jake Troiano, Ben Wolfgang

#### **Minsters of Communion**

Suzanne Blancaflor, Kate Byroade

#### **Verger**

Roy McAlpine, Ray Wilson

#### **Acolytes**

Malik Allen-Thomas

Jon Garcia

Juan Matos

Trocari Griffith-McCalop

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



**THE 2021 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  
Kitty & Dudley Duncan  
Una & Renatus Duncan  
Eve Mae & Edgar Gardner  
Arnold & Kathleen Gleave  
Kit Hastings  
Lois & Eugene Hebrank  
Jo-Ellen Jansing

Elizabeth Johnson  
Helen Kitzman  
Beatrice & Augustus Nelson  
Walter & Shirley Nelson  
Hal, Pat, David & Kevin  
Nelson  
Andrew Onderdonk  
Henry Randall  
Ethel Holsten Randall

Henry Randall III  
Frances Neail Randall  
William A. & Lillian C. Sandford  
Ronald & Elizabeth Steven  
Steve Smith  
Sarah J. Trafford  
Bernard W. Trafford  
Susan Wilkinson  
Bruce & Kathleen Wilson

**AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR**

The Trinity Church Office Volunteers:  
Penny Pearson, Jo-Ann Sadowsky & Percy Williamson

**An Excerpt From Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Christmas Message 2021**  
**'In the name of these refugees, let us help all refugees'**

A number of years ago I read a book by Roberta Bondi who at that time was teaching at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. The title of the book was "To Love as God Loves." Professor Bondi in that book looked at and examined early Christians. And one of the things she observed was that early Christians saw their vocation of following Jesus as learning how to love as God loves. And that was the title of the book, "To Love as God Loves."

If that is true, as I believe it is, when we look at the New Testament stories of Jesus, and particularly the stories around Christmas, we see early glimmers of Jesus showing us how to love as God loves. The Christmas stories found in Matthew and in Luke, for example, actually show us something about God's way of love.

We all know the Christmas stories, the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes as it's found in Luke's gospel, the baby that's born of Mary, the stories of Mary while she was pregnant meeting her cousin Elizabeth, and the words of the Magnificat—"My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

We know the stories of Mary giving birth in the manger because there was no room for them in the inn, the stories of the shepherds out on the field beholding the angel choir—"Gloria in Excelsis Deo." The stories of a baby born is the story of beauty, a story of hope; for as the Jewish tradition says, every child who is born is a reminder that God is not finished with the world yet. In this case, the baby that was born was named Jesus.

Matthew tells the same story but highlights other dimensions that remind us profoundly of the way God loves. In Matthew's story, the child is born and there is great beauty in it, but there is some difficulty, even in the relationship between Mary and Joseph when they discover that she is with child before they're actually married. But an angel intervenes and tells Joseph in the dream that this child is God's miracle.

And so Joseph accepts his responsibility and cares for Mary and the baby Jesus who is to be born. And all moves along well. And in Matthew's version there is the star, the Magi or the wise men who come from afar, but then the story takes a dark turn. And all of a sudden the same beauty that surrounded the birth of a child now is tinged by an ugliness of tyranny, the ugliness of injustice, the ugliness of hatred, the ugliness of unbridled selfishness as King Herod hears rumors of a rival to his throne being born and begins plans to execute children to stamp out his rival. In Matthew, that is the context for the birth of Jesus.

And Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus when he is born are forced to flee as refugees seeking political asylum, eventually in Egypt, because of the wrath of King Herod. They are saved from the destruction, but many do die.

The Christmas stories are reminders that this Jesus came to show us how to love as God loves. And one of the ways we love as God loves is to help those who are refugees, those who seek asylum from political tyranny, poverty, famine, or other hardship.

The Christian vocation as Jesus taught us is to love as God loves. And in the name of these refugees, let us help all refugees.

God love you. God bless you. And, this Christmas, may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

# COMPLINE



*a short, contemplative service  
of chant and sung prayer at the  
end of the day*

First Sundays at 9:00pm

November 7th • December 5th

January 2nd • February 6th • March 6th

Trinity Episcopal Church at 120 Sigourney St. Hartford, CT

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup></b> 10:00 A.M.	<b>The First Sunday after Christmas</b> Morning Prayer (Church)
<b>Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup></b> 12:00 P.M.	Noonday Prayer (Zoom)
<b>Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>New Year's Eve – Office is closed</b>
<b>Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 8:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M. 9:00 P.M.	<b>The Second Sunday after Christmas</b> Holy Eucharist Rite II (Church) Holy Eucharist Rite II (Church) Compline (Church)



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