

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING PRAYER
8:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 13, 2020

PHONE IN NUMBER: 929-436-2866 MEETING ID: 881 9858 5999

A PLACE OF WELCOME, HOPE & HEALING



120 Sigourney Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06105-2796
860.527.8133 www.trinityhartford.org

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO

8:00 A.M. VIA TELEPHONE

WELCOME

The Rev. D. Littlepage

Officiant The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All Most merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in your will,
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.

BCP 79

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

All Amen.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant Lord, open our lips;

All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

VENITE Psalm 95: 1-7

BCP 82

Please read in unison.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 126

BCP 782

Please read responsively by verse.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 *Then was our mouth filled with laughter, **
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 *The LORD has done great things for us, **
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 *Those who sowed with tears **
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Please read in unison

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader
People

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

Please read in unison

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
 I will trust in him and not be afraid.
 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
 and he will be my Savior.
 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
 from the springs of salvation.
 And on that day you shall say, *
 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
 Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
 see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
 and this is known in all the world.
 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
 for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

CANTICLE 6 THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

BCP 92

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.
 He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.
 Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.
 He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.
 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
 To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
 In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith

Silence for reflection.

Officiant Let us affirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

BCP 96

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth;
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.
All *And also with you.*
Officiant Let us pray.
All Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES

BCP 97

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People *And grant us your salvation.*
Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
People *Let your people sing with joy.*
Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People *For only in you can we live in safety.*
Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;
People *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*
Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;
People *Your saving health among all nations.*
Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 212

Officiant Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

BCP 815

Officiant O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

BCP 98

Officiant O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

PRAYER FOR MISSION

BCP 100

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

All Amen.

At this time, you are invited to share your prayers either silently or aloud.

If you pray aloud, please end your prayer with "This is my prayer"

Everyone else should respond "This is our prayer."

Officiant Let us join together in the words of the General Thanksgiving.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP 101

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

All Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

All Amen.

OUR WORSHIP AS A GATHERED COMMUNITY IS OVER.

OUR WORSHIP, THROUGH SERVICE TO THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE, BEGINS ANEW.

COVER ART: We are grateful to The Rev. George Chien, (UMC, MCC) for creating the bulletin artwork.

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.

LET US PRAY

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for Asker Downer, John Doyle and Richard Duggan, and Trinity Academy's board, teachers, principal, head of school and students .

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed.

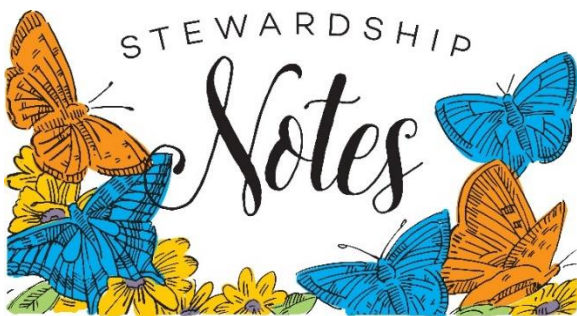
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury) The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton - Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands .

We pray for Alexandra Adams, Juhudi Mgombo, Nancy Crandall, Fred Margeson, Jennifer Stephens, Zechariah Stephens, Jo-Ellen Jansing, Katie Reynolds, Mavis Bennett; Ginny Catanzaro; Tori Henry; Louise Krippenstapel; Carlene Lewis; Judy Miller; Margaret Moore; Valentina Moore; Al Pereira; Jo-Ann Sadosky; Diane Bodine, Helen Strassner; Lindsey Tengtenga; Alice Turcotte; Richard Green (brother of Peter Green), Donald Bowens (Dianne Bowens-Waller), Joseph Negrelli Jr. and his family, Bill McMunn and Richard Alan Garver, Diane Bowens-Waller, Bruce and Jane Tatge (parents of Anne Green), Polly Thomas, Rebecca Bourret, Peter Vreeland, Amy Williams, Ken Rousseau (Casey Rousseau's dad), and Diana Perkins (friend of Suzanne and Boo), Jessica Compfer, Raldah Stephens, Joan and Ean Walsh (family of Jennifer Stephens) and those affected by mental and physical ailments, violence, natural disasters, and immigration and refugee policies, and their families; and for those who mourn for loved ones.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray for the repose of the souls of homicide victims in our city of Hartford, and beyond. We pray for those who will die this week, that they may meet their Lord in faith and hope. We pray for ourselves and for our departed loved ones, that rejoicing with them in God's kingdom where every tear is wiped away, we may as one family sing praise forever and ever.

+ ASSISTING AT WORSHIP +

The Rev. D Littlepage – Presider
The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith – Preacher



(Re)connect

Reminder: If you put your pledge packet aside to take care of after Thanksgiving, now is the time to pull it out of the mail pile, complete the pledge card and mail it in, and most important, write the note to your fellow parishioner to reconnect! Thank you!

Blue Christmas Service Friday, 18 December, 6 PM



Although the Christmas holidays are usually a happy time for many of us, the season can be painfully long and difficult for those dealing with sadness and loss, especially this year when so many of us are feeling isolated by the constrictions imposed by the pandemic.

If you are facing the holidays with a heavy or anxious heart, or are finding it difficult to face the holidays without being able to share them in-person with family and friends, or if

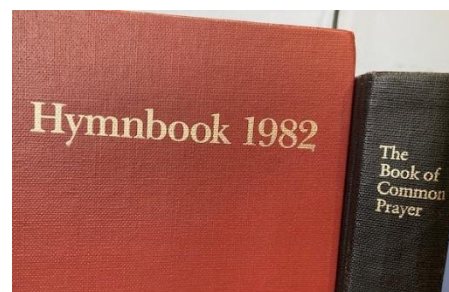
you want to be a comforting presence to others who are struggling, you are invited to join our **Blue Christmas Service on Friday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m.**

The service will be on zoom, and the link to the service will be available on the Trinity website, trinityhartford.org.

Worship with a bit of Trinity in Your Hands

As so much of our world right now is in the realm of online or phone, we would like to offer a bit of physical connection to Trinity.

You are invited to drop by the Church Office on **Saturday, December 12th or 19th from 10:00 am-11:00 am** to pick up a 1982 Hymnal and/or a Book of Common Prayer to borrow while our primary worship remains online.



Please come to the Sigourney St. entrance to the Parish House, wear a mask, and maintain social distance if there are multiple people there at the same time.

Please know that the Bulletin for each week will continue to be posted online.

Financial Contributions – Tax Credit in 2020

All financial contributions received by the parish office, postmarked on or electronically submitted before December 31, 2020, will be included in year-end statements.

If you would like to make a gift of stock, please contact Trinity's Finance Manager, Fran Times-Mack at either 860-527-8133 ext 206 or ftimesmack@trinityhartford.org for stock transfer instructions.

REMINDER: Please make every attempt to turn in your 2021 Pledge Card before the year's end. Please contact the office (office@trinityhartford.org) if you need a pledge card. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

The Giving Tree



Trinity's tradition of The Giving Tree continues this year, without the tree and its gift-request tags, but **WITH** the giving! The giving will take the form of \$25 gift cards for nineteen 1st - 4th graders at Trinity Academy. (Asylum Hill Congregational Church is providing gift cards for the other 19 students.) If we collect more than 19 cards, they'll also be given to the school, to be distributed to school families according to their needs.

Gift cards should be purchased from Amazon, Target and WalMart; this can be done online with all three, or at the store for the latter two. Then mail the card to Linda MacGougan at 5 Squirrel Hill Lane, West Hartford, CT 06107 by December 10th, so that she can bring them to the school early in the following week.

In some families, this gift card might provide the money for the only present a child receives, so please contribute if you can to make a child's holiday brighter.

Changes to the Holy Land Giving Tree

This year, the Outreach Team will give a \$1,000 donation to the same cause and parishioners may give either directly to AFEDJ (American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem) on-line or send a donation to Trinity by check with AFEDJ in the memo.

To donate on-line go to www.afedj.org . Click on "Give" at the top. Then choose "Give on-line", choose your amount, choose Ahli Hospital as your hospital recipient, and click the box for Christmas gift.

AFEDJ is the organization that oversees our gifts and makes sure they go directly to our hospital or school of choice. Donations made online can be made in honor of someone and AFEDJ will send a card either directly to your recipient or they will send the card to you so you may give it in person. Gifts to the hospital through Trinity will all be sent in together at the end of December.

AFEDJ is also sponsoring an On-line Advent Calendar, with photos and videos, on this same website, so visit it on December 1st!

Thank you for your assistance. Kate Smith for the Outreach Team



Christmas Flower and Music Memorial Donations

Each Christmas, Trinity Church members and friends have the opportunity to make memorial gifts to our music and flower funds. While we will miss the in-person gatherings typical of Advents and Christmases past, we are able to enjoy and participate in the spiritual wonder and beauty of the season in other ways. If you wish the names of loved ones remembered in our Christmas bulletins, feel free to print out and complete the attached form(s), and **return them to the church office before December 18th.**

Christmas **Music** Donations



Please accept my/our contribution of
\$ _____ to the Trinity Church Music Fund.

My/our contribution is given:(check one)

☐ In loving memory of:

☐ In thanksgiving for:

By: (Your Name) _____

- Make check payable to **Trinity Episcopal Church** and indicate **Christmas Music** in the memo line.
- Please place your check and this form in an envelope and return it to the parish office no later than **Friday, December 18, 2020.**

Questions: Contact Barbara Roos at office@trinityhartford.org
or 860-527-8133 ext. 204.

Christmas **Flower** Donations



Please accept my/our contribution of
\$ _____ to the Trinity Church Christmas Flower Fund.
My/our contribution is given: (check one)

☐ In loving memory of:

☐ In thanksgiving for:

By: (Your Name) _____

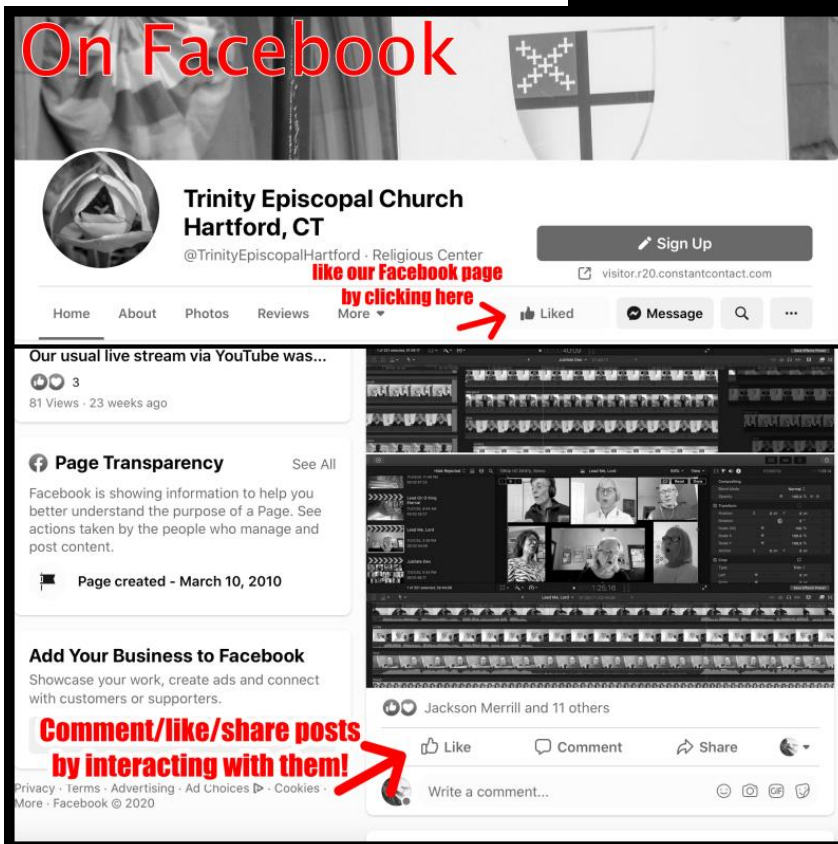
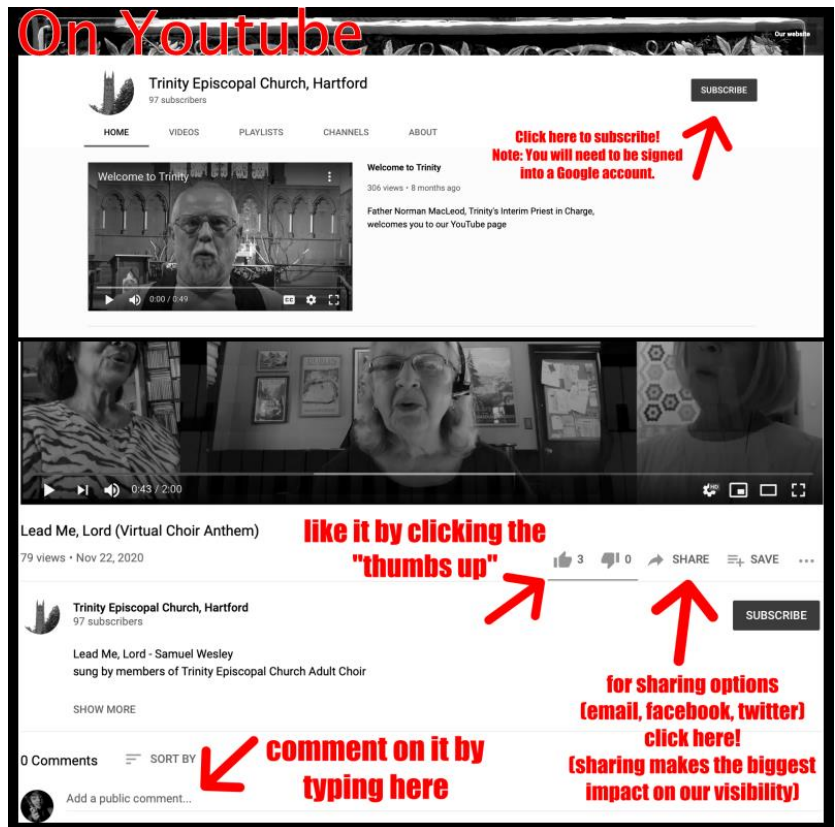
- Make check payable to **Trinity Episcopal Church** and indicate **Christmas Flowers in the memo line.**
- Please place your check and this form in an envelope and return it to the parish office no later than **Friday, December 18, 2020.**

Questions: Contact Barbara Roos at office@trinityhartford.org
or 860-527-8133 ext. 204.

From the Rector: Share the Trinity Love!!

If you have joined the 10am zoom worship since November 8th, you have gotten a glimpse of the amazing things that can be done with technology. Thanks to Michelle's experience, skill, and passion, we have enjoyed videos of Choristers and members of the Adult Choir continuing to provide beautiful music for Worship. These videos are being posted on Facebook and YouTube after the service. You don't want to miss one of these videos, so please subscribe to the [Trinity Church YouTube Channel](#) to be notified when a new video is posted.

If you use Facebook, share the gift of Trinity's music far and wide by sharing the videos on your page!



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 13th The Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 A.M. Call-in Morning Prayer – Zoom

10:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist Rite II (with Spiritual Communion) – Zoom

Monday, December 14th

8:15 A.M. Trinity Academy – Virtual Learning

Tuesday, December 15th

8:15 A.M. Trinity Academy – Virtual Learning

5:15 P.M. Bible Study – Zoom

6:00 P.M. Choir School Rehearsal - Church

7:00 P.M. Vestry Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, December 16th

Thursday, December 17th

8:15 A.M. Trinity Academy – Virtual Learning

12:00 P.M. Noonday Prayer

6:00 P.M. Choir School Hand Bell Rehearsal

Friday, December 18th - Office Closed

6:00 P.M. Service of Hope and Remembrance - Zoom

Saturday, December 19th

10:00 A.M. Sanctuary Stitchers - Zoom

Sunday, December 20th The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 A.M. Call-In Morning Prayer – Zoom

10:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist Rite II (with Spiritual Communion) – Zoom



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