

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PLACE OF WELCOME, HOPE & HEALING

DECEMBER 21, 2025

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 AM



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

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

WELCOME

If you are new to Trinity, we hope you will introduce yourself and sign one of the guest books at either entrance to the Church. Restrooms are 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.

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 *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 tradition, for prayer.

NAMETAGS

We are delighted to welcome you at Trinity. 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, please use the stickers and markers available 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. We will make every effort to have your nametag ready for you on the following Sunday.

KIDS IN CHURCH

If you need to step out of the service with your infant or toddler and are in search of a quiet space to spend a few moments, the parent room (at the end of the North Narthex past the door to the Memorial Garden) is open during the service. There is no childcare attendant, so all children must be accompanied by their parent/guardian.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Private intercessory prayer is available with members of our Intercessory Prayer Team in the side aisle while Communion is being distributed at the service. Additionally, there are Prayer Jars at each entrance to the Sanctuary where you can share prayer requests that will be prayed over for the next month.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Our church offers assistive listening devices for individuals with hearing difficulties. These devices allow them to receive amplified sound directly through their compatible hearing aids. If you need assistance using an assistive listening device, please see a church usher.

PRELUDE

Ave Maria

J.S. Bach (1685-1750) / Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;
Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Please stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1982 Hymnal #56

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

KYRIE

1982 Hymnal S-96

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Please be seated for the reading of Holy Scripture.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anglican Chant: #39 by Wesley



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading / Joseph like a / flock; *
Shine forth, you that are en/throned up/on the / cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, / Benjamin, and Ma/nasseh, *
stir up your / strength and / come to / help us.
- 3 Restore us, O / God of / hosts; *
show the light of your / countenance, and / we shall be / saved.
- 4 O LORD / God of / hosts, *
how long will you be angered
de/spite the / prayers of your / people?
- 5 You have fed them with the / bread of / tears; *
you have given them / bowls of / tears to / drink.
- 6 You have made us the de/rision of our / neighbors, *
and our / enemies / laugh us to / scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O / God of / hosts; *
show the light of your / countenance, and / we shall be / saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the / man of your / right hand, *
the son of man you have / made so / strong for your/self.
- 17 And so will we never / turn a/way from you; *
give us life, that we may / call up/on your / Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD / God of / hosts; *
show the light of your / countenance, and / we shall be / saved.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1982 Hymnal #66

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

Kate Byroade

Silence for reflection.

Please stand as you are able.

THE NICENE CREED

From Enriching Our Worship*

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM VI

BCP P. 392

The Leader and People pray responsively.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
Silence.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

*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 "and the Son" was added a few hundred years later by a regional synod and was never adopted by Eastern Orthodox Churches.)

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Jeff and Laura, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

PRAYER FOR TRANSITION

Gracious God, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on Trinity Church. We ask you to keep us centered on You as we await a new Rector. We are grateful to be surrounded always by Your love, and we pray this love will be the foundation of every interaction with each other. We are stronger when we are together in actions, mission and purpose. We are blessed to be on this spiritual journey together. Amen.

Church of the Holy Spirit, Harleysville, PA (adapted)

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with the absolution:

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

THE PEACE

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

The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Angel Gabriel
Basque Carol arr. Malcom Archer (b.1952)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy Name."
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say –
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People And of thine own have we given thee.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP P. 367

Please stand or adopt another posture of prayer.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

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

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

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 #S-130

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 image shows a three-system musical score for a hymn. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady accompaniment.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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 all 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant We now pray in the language of our hearts, as our Savior Christ has taught us,

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 for ever. Amen.

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant 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.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant 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. Please remember that if you do not wish to receive wine, receiving only Bread imparts the full benefit of the Sacrament. If you are unable to come to the front, please let an usher know and the Sacrament will be brought to you.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Ave Verum Corpus

Gabriel Fauré

Ave verum corpus natum
de Maria Virgine;
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine;
cuius latus perforatum
unda fluxit sanguine.
Esto nobis praegustatum
mortis in examine.

Hail, true Body,
born of the Virgin Mary;
who truly suffered and was sacrificed
on the cross for humankind;
whose pierced side
flowed with water and blood.
Be for us a foretaste
in the trial of death.

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP P. 366

Let us pray.

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

Celebrant The blessing of God Almighty, the One Holy and Undivided Trinity, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People Amen.

4 God whose name we mag - ni - fy, all your child - ren mat - ter.

1 Ma - ry, when the an - gel's voice called you high - ly fa - vored,
 2 Jo - seph, in your dark - est night, an - gel mes - sage hear - ing,
 3 Old and sage E - liz - a - beth, birth an - ti - ci - pat - ing,
 4 God whose name we mag - ni - fy, all your child - ren mat - ter.

From op - pres - sion raise the poor; proud and might - y scat - ter.

dread and joy in your heart mixed, pon - dered there and sa - vored.
 you cast not your love a - side, scorn and an - ger fear - ing.
 nur - tur - ing your cous - in's will, you taught hope - ful wait - ing.
 From op - pres - sion raise the poor; proud and might - y scat - ter.

Seeds be - neath the win - ter snow live, 'tho all seems bar - ren.

May we learn to wel - come all that our life is bring - ing,
 When a loved one brings us grief, rips our world a - sun - der,
 So, as wo - men long have done, may we nev - er fal - ter
 Seeds be - neath the win - ter snow live, 'tho all seems bar - ren.

Musical score for the hymn "Lift a Carol, Sing of Hope for the Rose of Sharon". The score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Lift a car - ol, sing of hope for the Rose of Shar - on. e - ven when in pain we feel birth with - in us spring - ing. dream - er, may we have your heart, o - pen to God's won - der. to ex - tend a gen - tle touch, fears to cour - age al - ter. Lift a car - ol, sing of hope for the Rose of Shar - on."

Words: Carol Goodwin King © 1997 Carol Goodwin King. All right reserved. Used by permission.
 Music: *Tempus adest floridum*, melody form *Piae Cantiones*, 1582. harm. John Stainer (1840-1901) alt. desc. CCW Sparks.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
 People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ave Maria

Giulio Caccini (1551-1618)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;
 Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
 Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
 Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
 Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
 Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
 now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

+ ASSISTING AT WORSHIP +

Celebrant: The Rev. Horace Johnson

Preacher: Kate Byroade

Director of Music: Markus Centola

Trinity Choir & Choristers

Lay Readers: Amy Arlin, Kitty Peterson

Intercessor: Martha Freimuth

Intercessory Prayer Team: Bill Kofalk

Acolytes: Elizabeth Rousseau, Matthew Thomas

Ministers of Communion:

Godly Play Storyteller & Door Person: Nancy Crandall, Jacqueline Lucier

Ushers: Neill Derick, William A. Kofalk, Sonia Watson, Marc Wiest, Dianne Bowens-Waller

Virtual Vergers: Mark MacGougan, Casey Rousseau, Elizabeth Rousseau, Jake Troiano

Altar Guild: Marcus Clark, Kitty Peterson, Mary Register, Cathy Rowe, Cecelia Timothy

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. Hymns and service music are all from The Hymnal 1982, © 1985 and LEVAS II The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission of Church Publishing, Inc., New York, NY. All rights reserved. Used by permission of One License.net #A-712490.

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

LET US PRAY

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for Kathie Wilson, Elena Zhidvoka-Rice, and Steve Zhitnik.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; the children of the world & ECCT ministries for children at risk.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi.

We pray for:

Austin Mogor

Markus Centola & Family

Mike Amanek

Edith Navarro

Suliman Foster

Jasmine Drake

Louisa Cummings

Clane Nickols

Irina Mamata & Family

Charles Lewis

Bowens Family

Cathy Rowe and Family

of Daniel Negrelli esp. Karen &

Keira

Francis Sken

George Beach

Cheryl

Lennox

The Lugo and Torres Families

Daryl Todd

The Wentgertzman Family

The Swiatek Family

Bp. Michael Curry

Saydie Eggleston

Viola Cleo Bradshaw

Faye, Elizabeth and

Hannah Aliene & their children

TODAY:

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

In a long-standing Trinity Church tradition, we will take time following the service on this last Sunday of Advent to decorate the sanctuary for the festival celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. Members of the Altar Flower Team will be available to guide you as we hang ribbons, wrap garlands, and arrange flowering plants. Please plan to help if you can; it's a big space to decorate, and many hands make light work!

We will resume our monthly Bible Study on January 18.

2026 Stewardship Campaign Continues

Though we had an ingathering of pledge cards on November 9, please know that Trinity's annual stewardship campaign continues. Everyone is invited and encouraged to make a pledge of financial support to help anchor the future of our parish.

We would like to have as many pledges as possible as soon as possible, so that the Vestry can look ahead to Trinity's financial commitments for 2026. If you do not have a pledge card and would like one, there are pledge packets on the tables next to the Sunday bulletins, or you may contact the church office to be sent one - 860-527-8133 x 204. You may return the pledge cards in the offering plates or mail them to the office.

You may also make your pledge directly on our **website**: www.trinityhartford.org/giving/.

Outreach Contributes to Ahli Hospital 2025

Over the past 20 years, Trinity Church has given Outreach dollars to AFEDJ (American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem). Our Holy Land Giving Tree has not been operational since the beginning of the Gaza war, but our hearts are with our destitute friends there. The Bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem distributes whatever we donate, and this is so greatly appreciated. The Vestry voted in November to give \$500 to AFEDJ for the Ahli Hospital. This came from Outreach funds already on hand. Advent and Christmas have always been a time when we remember those in need in Palestine. If you would like to give a personal gift at this time, please visit the AFEDJ website: www.AFEDJ.org

Also, for that special person for whom you don't know what to buy, give them a donation to AFEDJ in their honor. It is a lasting gift.

– Kate Smith: AFEDJ Missioner

Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings 2025

The Vestry has designated that all loose-plate offerings and special-envelope contributions from Thanksgiving and Christmas be directed to CT's Caribbean Disaster Relief Coalition in support of Hurricane Melissa relief efforts. On October 28, 2025, the Category 5 hurricane made landfall in Jamaica, bringing nearly 30 inches of rain and causing catastrophic flooding and landslides. The storm resulted in extensive technological, agricultural, and infrastructure damage, with many towns in western Jamaica experiencing near-total destruction from flooding and extreme wind gusts. Overall, Jamaica's estimated losses are approaching \$10 billion.

May your Spirit breathe peace over the land and hope for the new creation, and may your love restore what storms have taken away.

Trinity's Book Group

The Book Group starts off the new year with *James* by Percival Everett, a brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. The meeting will be on Friday, **January 23**, from 7:00 to 8:30ish pm, and everyone's welcome to attend. Steve Zhitnik will host at his West Hartford home; please let him know if you plan to attend at 860-989-8394 (text or call). Come enjoy some goodies, fellowship, and an interesting discussion!

Godly Play: A typical Sunday in our Godly Play Sacred Space

9:45 Doors open, welcoming

10:00 Church calendar

Story: a parable, story from the Old Testament, New Testament, Saint or people of color who inspire, or a Liturgical story.

10:15 Feast; a time to share and have a small snack

10:20 Work time with choice of a craft, paints, clay, puzzles, working with one of the stories

10:40 Gathering to pass the peace, then rejoining our families in the sanctuary

We have a lively multi-aged class welcoming all children ages 3 - 18 with two adults leading.

Prayers in the Chapel

Every Sunday after our service we invite you to the chapel to pray for those guiding us through the search for a new rector. We are a small prayer team that has volunteered for this exercise. We also have found that this is a prayer time for our own needs and those of others. Please join us for this short time together, for about 10-15 minutes. All are welcome!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 21

- 9:45 A.M. Godly Play (Education Wing)
- 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Church) Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 11:30 A.M. Greening of the Church
- 6:00 P.M. NA Group Meeting (Huntington Hall)

Tuesday, December 23

- 6:00 P.M. Choir School Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Wednesday, December 24

- 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day - Office & Buildings Closed.

Friday, December 26

Day after Christmas - Office & Buildings Closed

Sunday, December 28

- 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Church) - First Sunday after Christmas
- 6:00 P.M. NA Group Meeting (Huntington Hall)

Trinity Office Staff

Markus Centola, Director of Music * Vinnie Pacileo, Facilities Manager
Mary Rojas, Parish Administrator * Tom Villano, Finance Manager

Vestry of Trinity Church

Jacqueline Lucier, Warden
Alan Rice, Warden
Kitty Peterson, Clerk
Jake Troiano, Interim Treasurer
Amy Arlin * Penny Pearson * Casey Rousseau
Cathy Rowe * Sonia Watson * Kathie Wilson



Scan to make a

- Pledge payment
- General offering/donation
- Special Fund Offering
- Outreach & Mission