



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent
Celebrating our 141st Anniversary

Holy Communion – 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

*We invite our guests as well as members to fill out the blue sheet,
found inside your bulletin, and place in the offering plate.*

Share your story!

*Check-in, Tweet, post, or send an Instagram about your experience at Holy Trinity.
Use #PowerofTrinity to share your Faith in an instant!*

Find us on Facebook at:

*Facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo
Facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic*

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

VOLUNTARY

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
from the *Eighteen Chorales* (BWV 659)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(10:30)

THE ANTIPHON

O Adonai

from the *Great "O" Antiphons* (1986)

Peter Hallock

(1924 - 2014)

O Adonai, ruler of the house of Israel. You appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush; on Mount Sinai you gave him your law: with outstretched arm come and redeem us.

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"

ELW 263

(vs. 3 women; vs. 4 men)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

Amen.

Let us come before the living God in confession.

You are invited to kneel or sit, as you are able (10:30)

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
**we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us.
Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our
sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in
your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant
love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the
righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the
waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life.
Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all
creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven
in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus
Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*While we light the Advent Wreath we sing together O Come, O
Come, Emmanuel: ELW 257 vs. 1 & 2*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile
here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and
beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

The first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent is recorded in Isaiah, the 11th Chapter.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

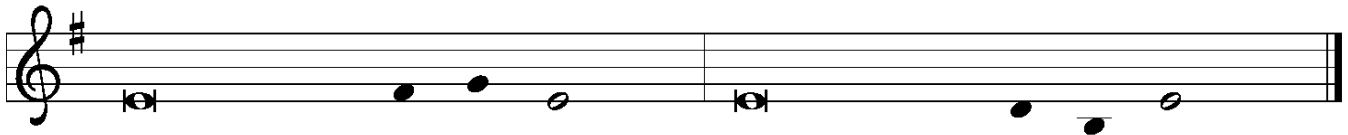
¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72: 1-7, 18-19

The congregation will sing responsively the bold-faced type.



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²**that he may rule your | people righteously**
and the | poor with justice;

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon
shall | be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

The second reading for today is recorded in Romans, the 15th Chapter.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

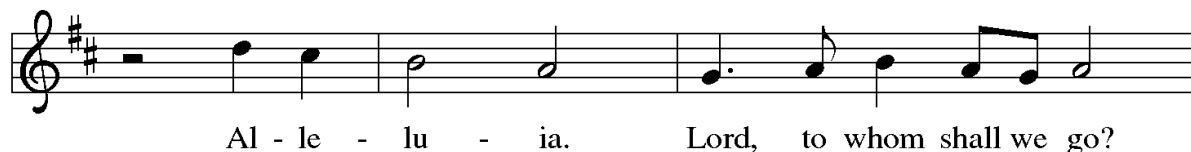
¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

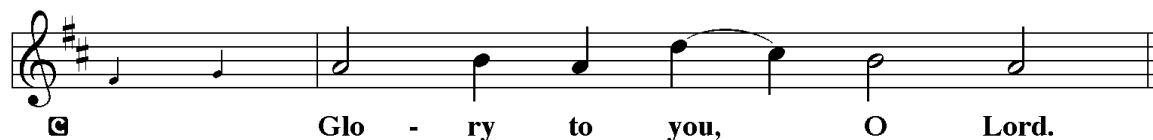
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew



¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

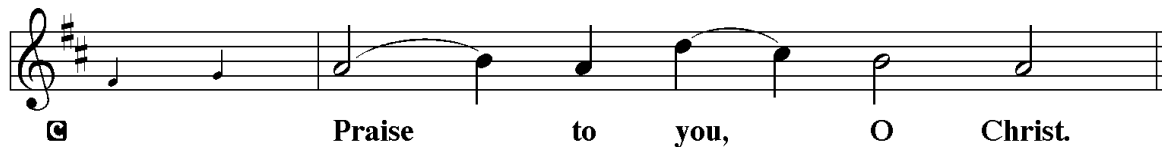
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The gospel of the Lord:



Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

Please stand, if able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People "Freu Dich Sehr"

ELW 256

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of promise, your reign has come near. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit in the world through acts of faithful service. Strengthen all communities of faith, including the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Resurrection, and Holy Trinity. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve ecosystems, that all life on earth may be sustained. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give to all leaders wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion for the world you so love. We pray especially for all men and women serving in the armed forces and their families. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the poor, set tables of abundance in all places where hands are empty, where stomachs ache with hunger, and where hearts and minds suffer pain. Feed and heal all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of hope, renew in your people all joy and peace in believing, especially those facing anxiety, depression, alienation or illness and today we pray for Paul Nikischer and for all those we now name out loud, and those we remember in our hearts... . Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of love, watch over all of us, the young and young at heart. For your daughters and sons, including the children of our community and especially Chloe and Eli. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

(8:30)

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

Turn Thee To Me

from *Biblical Songs*, Op. 99, No. 3

Antonín Dvořák

(1841 – 1904)

Aurora Deeds, *soprano*

Turn Thee to me, and have mercy for I am desolate and sore distressed. Great are the sorrows of my heart; bring me out of my distress. Oh be merciful; look on my sorrow; see mine affliction and forgive me all my wickedness; oh, keep my soul in safety and deliver me. Let me never be confounded, for my hope is in Thee.

(10:30)

At The Round Earth's Imagined Corners

Poem: John Donne

Williametta Spencer

(b. 1932)

At the round earth's imagin'd corners, blow
Your trumpets, angels, and arise, arise
From death, you numberless infinities
Of souls, and to your scatter'd bodies go;
All whom the flood did, and fire shall o'erthrow,
All whom war, dearth, age, agues, tyrannies,
Despair, law, chance hath slain, and you whose eyes
Shall behold God and never taste death's woe.
But let them sleep, Lord, and me mourn a space,
For if above all these my sins abound,
'Tis late to ask abundance of thy grace
When we are there; here on this lowly ground
Teach me how to repent; for that's as good
As if thou'hadst seal'd my pardon with thy blood.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.

Amen.

OFFERTORY


Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885


“Old Hundredth”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.


DIALOGUE




The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

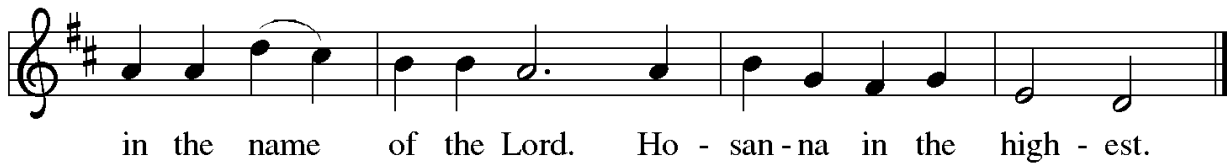
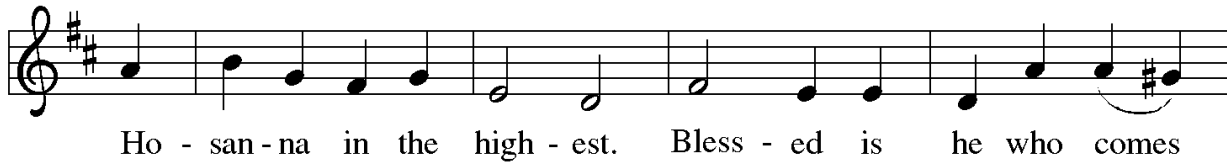
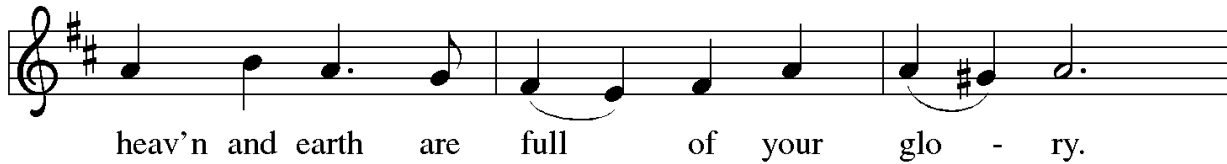
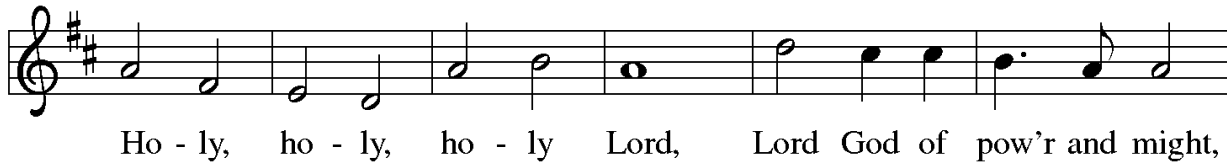


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our 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, forever and ever.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Beginning with those seated closest to the altar, you are invited to come forward to the communion rail (or to the presiding minister if the communion rails are not in place) and kneel or stand at the next available place at the rail. Receiving the wafer in your hand, you are invited to dip or “intinct” the wafer into the chalice. There is wine in the silver chalice and grape juice in the ceramic chalice. For those who prefer, gluten-free wafers are available by simply asking the Pastor as you are served. Adults or children choosing not to receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. The Pastors will bring the sacrament to persons in the pews that are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so. Come; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord.

(8:30)

SOLO AT COMMUNION

Let the Bright Seraphim from Sampson

Franz Josef Haydn
(1732 - 1809)

Aurora Deeds, *soprano*

Let the bright seraphim in burning row,
Their loud, uplifted angel trumpets blow.
Let the cherubic host, in tuneful choirs,
Touch their immortal harps with golden wires.

(10:30)

God, Stir the Soil

Text: Prayer from Singapore, anonymous

Roland Martin
(b. 1955)

Julie Tunstall, *flute*

God, stir the soil, run the plough-share deep, overturn the hard, dry ground.
Spare no strength nor toil, even though I weep.
In the loose, fresh mangled earth sow new seed.
Free of withered vine and weed bring fair flow'rs to birth.

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light...

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife;

Such a Life outliveth death.

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light...

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part:

Such a Heart, as joys in love .

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light...

Such a Life outliveth death.

Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Way, as ends all strife.

Come, my Way, Come my, Truth,

Come, my Heart, Come, my Life,

Come, my Faith, Come, my Hope,

Come, my strength, my Light!

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are sick, homebound or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound “Chesterfield”

ELW 239


DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
from the *Eighteen Chorales* (BWV 661)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)



*We invite you to join us downstairs in Redeemer Hall
to meet our new members and join us
for refreshments and fellowship following the 10:30 Service.
All are welcome.*



Music Notes

The Third Annual *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, in collaboration with the University at Buffalo Choirs, Claudia Brown, *conductor*, will take place **this evening at 6:00 pm**. We mirror the annual tradition set forth from King's College Cambridge University - England, featuring members of the Congregation on the traditional readings, each followed by a choral responsory or Hymn. Kristen Pomietlarz will also feature works at our beloved Margaret L. Wendt Memorial Organ. The UB Choirs perform works by G. F. Handel, Thomas Tallis, Herbert Murrill, Jonathan Dove, Elizabeth Poston, Morten Lauridsen, and Sergei Rachmaninoff, among others.



Day “Buy” Day Thanksgivings

- December 22* *In Loving Memory of Nick Campana, on what would've been his 86th birthday. Sadly missed by wife Cris, sons Shane and Sean and 7 grandchildren.*
- December 31* *The first day of retirement for Heidi Kunz. Now we will be together 24/7/365. (Prayers requested). From her husband Earl.*

Now you can honor special events and special people in your life!
Send us a Day Buy Day Form with a check made payable to
Holy Trinity for \$25 for each event you wish to honor.
Proceeds will go toward the Education Committee and help sponsor the
Confirmation Camp for youth here at Holy Trinity.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, December 8, 2019 – Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)
9:30 a.m. Sunday Forum (FR)
10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion/new members received
10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Nursery (SS)
11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour (FI)
12:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (FR)
2:30 p.m. Worship to Go at Wedgewood
6:00 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (MC)

MONDAY, December 9, 2019

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (FR)

TUESDAY, December 10, 2019

- 6:30 p.m. Community Music School Rehearsal (CH)

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CR)
6:00 p.m. Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus (MC)
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Worship (CH)
7:15 p.m. HT Play Rehearsal (CH)

THURSDAY, December 12, 2019

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MR)
7:00 p.m. AA/AL-ANON (RH)

FRIDAY, December 13, 2019

- 6:00 p.m. Congregational Christmas Dinner and Pageant (RH)

SUNDAY, December 15, 2019 – Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)
9:30 a.m. Sunday Forum (FR)
10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)
10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Nursery (SS)
11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour (FI)
1:00 p.m. HT Play (CH)
2:30 p.m. Worship to go at Wedgewood

CH = Mansperger Chapel
FR = Fellowship Room
MR = Music Room
SC = Sacristy

CI = Crib Room
FI = Fireside Room/Library
PS = Pastor's Study
SS = Sunday School

CR = Conference Room
MC = Main Church
RH = Redeemer Hall
YR = Youth Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME to our new members being received today at the 10:30 service: Susan Bangard, Jessica, Chloe and Eli Coram, Susan Cosentino, John Georger, William Johnston, Ellen Kelly, Kelly Mahoney, Ann Nessa and Julie Tunstall.

PASTOR BRENDA is away this weekend visiting family in Florida and celebrating her grandmother's 95th birthday. She will be back in the office on Tuesday, December 10.

SUNDAY FORUM: Today our church treasurer, Emily Notari, will present the proposed budget and next week join our own Dr. Roy Clare for the Annual Christmas Sing-a-long. Programs begin at 9:30am in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Once again the congregation is being asked to contribute toward the purchase of poinsettias which will be placed in the chancel for Christmas. Flowers are \$10 each and may be given in memory or honor of someone. Order forms are available in the entrance ways.

CHANGES TO THE CHURCH PAPER: We will continue to publish our Church Paper every other month. However, **beginning in January 2020**, we will no longer be mailing paper copies without a print subscription. You will have the option of subscribing to a paper edition. The cost would be \$10 per year and you will need to call the church office to sign up for this delivery. You will be able to find the newsletter on our website, or you may sign up to receive it via email. **Please know that copies are always available on the tables at the church or chapel entrance ways or at the church office.** If you would like to sign up electronically, subscribe to your print edition, or if you have any questions about this transition, please call the church office at 716-886-2400.

ANGEL/MITTEN TREE: Don't miss the opportunity to spread Christmas cheer and warmth to the children of Buffalo PS 17 this season! You have 2 options:

In the area just outside the Sanctuary, you'll find the Holy Trinity Angel Tree. Here you'll choose a child's name along with a list of needs and gift ideas. Place your gifts under the HT Angel Tree by December 17 and we'll do the rest!

Another option is placing an item on one of the Holy Trinity Mitten Trees. These will be located right outside the church office, and the chapel, to receive brand new hats, mittens, and warm accessories for the children. Our partnership with Public School 17 ensures a cozy and bright holiday for dozens of underprivileged kids, and an unbelievable feeling of warmth for you. Thank You!

HOLIDAY BASKETS: The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will once again be collecting food and cash donations for our holiday baskets. All non-perishable food items will be used for the baskets. Cash donations to help provide gift certificates and can be sent to the church office and designated "holiday baskets". The Committee will be preparing the baskets on Monday, December 16 following Bible Study at 11:00am. All are welcome. Thank you for your donations.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CHILDREN'S PAGEANT will be held **Friday, December 13**. Dinner is in Redeemer Hall at 6:00 p.m. The pageant immediately follows. Cost is \$10 adults/\$5 children/\$30 family price and can be made at the door or send to the church office. Reservation forms can be found on the tables in the entrance ways.

POCKET/PURSE PRAYER SQUARES are available in baskets on the tables at the entrance ways for you to pick up. Thank you to Judy Kroll for providing these.

2019 ADVENT STAR DEVOTIONS ARE AVAILABLE! The Advent Star Devotions are provided as a gift by United Lutheran Seminary and have been written by community members of the seminary to assist in our at-home daily Advent prayers. The 2019 Advent Star Devotions can be picked up either in the Fellowship Room or in Redeemer Hall, a video on how to assemble your stand-up star can be found on our website and Facebook page.

THE H.T. PLAYERS are back with a new theater production called “The Mystery of The Manger Bed” directed by Marty Bauer. The play will be staged in a style known as “reader’s theater” where the emphasis is put on the beauty of words and storytelling. Performances will be Sunday, December 15 at 1:00pm and Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30pm in the Chapel. Admission for these performances is a free-will offering at the door. Proceeds will benefit the LYO Mission fund to help cover the costs of the National Gathering and other mission events.

ELECTRONIC GIVING: Holy Trinity has an electronic option for making regular offerings or a one-time donation. If you would like to sign up, please fill out the forms located on the tables in the narthex and return to the office. Please call the church office with questions.

GIVE + APP: Introducing the Give+ App, a new way to share your offering without cash or checks. Simply go to the App Store on your phone or tablet and search and install “GivePlus Church”. Click on “Find Churches Near Me” and select Holy Trinity. You can click on Give Now for a one time gift or create your own account. Follow instructions to complete your gift. Detailed instructions can be found on the table in the entrance way. Look for the Give + Church flyer.

2019 HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Chapel Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Chancel Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:30 p.m. Family Service
9:45 p.m. Preservice music
10:30 p.m. Festival candlelight service of Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas service (Chapel)

At 8:30 a.m. the worship assistant is Delayne Pace. Altar guilds are Heidemarie Kunz and Gail Camilleri. Lay reader is Marcia Haas. Communion assistant is Susan Bundt. Ushers are Dave and Pat Ulrich.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Guy Huber. Lay reader is Doreen Griebel. Altar guilds are Uli MacDonald and Linda Thomasula. Greeters are Roy Clare and Robert and Nadine Sweitzer. Ushers are Ron Leiser (captain), Kristen Best, Mike Day, Alan Heiss, Kaci Kaltrider, Angela Keppel, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Helen and Marty Wright. Communion Assistants are Ron Leiser, Helen Wright, Max Hakansson and Randi Jones. Worship Assistants are Randi Jones, Sam Guzzino, Nathaniel Wareham, Adam Hakansson, Natalia Bavaro, Oscar Guzzino, Eliana Perez, Adrianna Wareham and Max Hakansson. Collection counters are Paul Bauchle, Darlene Carden and Karen Kolb.

The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Carolyn Ferraro and Rosemary Kryszczuk from The Kryszczuk Family; and In gratitude for the blessings of my children; Grace, Jon, Emma and Aidan by Kathy Crissey.

Council member Gwen Howard-Mann will be at the Entrance Way to address any questions or concerns you may have this morning.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Chloe and Eli Coram.

The flag flying on the flagpole has been dedicated In Memory of Ken James by Gail and John Camilleri.



Stewardship Thought of the Day

*Let us remember the poor, and not forget kindness to strangers;
above all, let us love God with all our soul, and might,
and our neighbor as ourselves. Athanasius of Alexandria*

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Kurt Kaufmann, President
Uli MacDonald, Vice-President
Emily Notari, Treasurer
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Theдрalyn Bradley, Ryon Fleming, Guy Huber, Richard Lee,
Gwen Howard-Mann, Juan Perez, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Barb Wozniak

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John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II, Senior Pastor
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The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor
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