



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, September 20, 2020  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Celebrating our 142<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

Service of the Word 8:30 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.*

*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**

*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

## **PRELUDE**

Lento, assai espressivo, from *Two Slow Airs*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Arranged by Robin Wells

*RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*As we gather from our homes, we invite you to place a bowl or cup of water in front of you, to remember our baptism.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

**We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.**

**Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

**Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.**

*(At home, dip your finger into a bowl or cup of water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.)*

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

# OPENING HYMN

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* "Lord, Revive Us"

ELW 588

(vs. 1 & 2)



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

### **THE READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

The first reading for Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost is recorded in Jonah, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Chapters.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SOLO**

*Ye People Rend Your Hearts  
If With All Your Hearts*

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy  
(1809 – 1847)

Roger VanDette, *tenor*

Ye people, rend your hearts, and not your garments for your transgressions: Even as Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to ye, forsake your idols, return to God; For He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil. 'If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find Me.' Thus saith our God, Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before his presence!

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’

So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

**SERMON MEDITATION**

Rather slow and with gentle feeling, from *Two Slow Airs* Herbert Howells  
(1892-1983)

Arranged by Robin Wells

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. We pray for our ecumenical and inter-faith siblings in VOICE Buffalo, the Network of Religious Communities, and the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Resurrection Village and the Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and for their families. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, and the prayers of our hearts and our minds. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with someone in your home, or share a message of peace via text, tweet, or post (or call someone after worship.)*

## **SOLO AT THE OFFERING**

For *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

African American Spiritual

Arr. Moses Hogan

(1957 – 2003)

Roger VanDette, *tenor*

He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got all the power in His hands. He's got you and me, brother, in His hands. He's got you and me, sister, in His hands. He's got the little baby in His hands. He's got mother and father in His hands. He's got stars and moon right in His hands. He's got ev'rybody in His hands.

## **THE OFFERING**

*Thank you for your gifts and offerings which make our ministry possible. You may share your offering by clicking the “Contribute Today” link below this Livestream and on our Homepage, or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray together.

**O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**Amen.**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation “Ar Hyd Y Nos”

ELW 679

(vs. 1 & 3)

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*. © Oxford University Press 1906.

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Toccata in 'Amazing Grace'

J. Christopher Pardini



## Music Notes

Herbert Howells was born in Lydney, Gloucester on October 17, 1892. He showed a keen interest in composition early in his life and, at the age of eighteen, became a pupil of Herbert Brewer, Organist of Gloucester Cathedral. In 1912, he was awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Music and studied under Charles Villiers Stanford, Walter Parratt, Charles Wood and Hubert Parry.

Unlike his close friend and mentor, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Howells never collected or made direct use of folk songs. He did, however, accept their importance as part of a wider musical heritage but preferred to allow church modes and the pentatonic scale to play a more prominent part in the construction of his output. The move away from secular to sacred music after *Hymus Paradisi* (1938) continued into the 1940s with a series of compositions setting Mass texts and Canticles, most notably the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis from the Anglican Evensong service.

Herbert Howells died in London on February 23, 1983 at the age of 90. During his life he has been awarded a Collard Life Fellowship (Worshipful Company of Musicians), CBE (1953) and in 1972 was made a Companion of Honour.

Two Slow Airs were originally written for violin and piano and are transcribed for organ by Robin Wells. The first, entitled 'Slow Air' was written for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music as a test piece for the grade Violin Intermediate in 1928. The second piece simply described as 'Lento assai espressivo' has many clear similarities and seemed logical to group together under the same title.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLU CLINIC:** We will be holding our annual flu clinic on Sunday, October 4 from 9:30am – 1:00pm in Redeemer Hall. You will need to have your insurance card and photo ID. Get your flu shot early.

**ALTAR FLOWERS ARE BACK:** Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for these or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at [mmarylschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:mmarylschmidt@gmail.com) or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

**FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP Happy Hour** – Join us each Friday via Zoom at 5:00pm. We'll meet together through safe physical-distancing while being able to check in with each other and enjoy the company. Bring your favorite beverage to the computer. Zoom Meeting ID: 285 453 435. Password 299123.

**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Each week via Zoom at 9:30 am. Join via Zoom ID 427 428 740. Password 849195.

**CRISIS SERVICES:** For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is working around the clock to respond to and combat the impact COVID-19 has on our community. Their hotline number is 834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of their parents John and Victoria Caffarelli by Donna Leiser and Mary Linda Schmidt and their families; and In Loving Memory of Karen Howard from her sister.



Office Staff may be reached by phone daily Monday – Friday.

Please call the church office should you need anything.

As always, the Pastors are available by appointment.

We will continue to share information regarding life and worship at Holy Trinity. You can always check out the website for up-to-date information.

# **HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP**

## **Congregational Council**

Uli MacDonald, President  
Emily Notari, Vice-President  
Guy Huber, Treasurer  
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Theedralyn Bradley, Kathy Crissey, Ryon Fleming, Richard Lee,  
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona, 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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