



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, November 29, 2020  
First Sunday of Advent  
Celebrating our 142<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

Service of the Word 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.*

*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**

*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

## **PRELUDE**

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

*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.*

## **PRAYER FOR CONFESSION**

Original Dreamer,

Over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world.

We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.

We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.

We hear your dream for community and hope.

We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes.

We continue to live with the curtains drawn,  
the covers pulled tight,  
eyes shut to the realities of the world.

Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights.

Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world.

With hope we pray, amen.

# OPENING HYMN

## Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying "Wachet Auf"

ELW 436

(vs. 1 & 2)

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

## **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*

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.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

## **THE READING: Isaiah 64:1-9**

The first reading for the First Sunday of Advent is recorded in Isaiah, the 64<sup>h</sup> Chapter.

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SOLO**

*But Who May Abide* from *Messiah* HWV 56

Georg Friederic Händel

Text: Malachi 3:2

(1685 – 1759)

Timothy Flynn, *bass*

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?  
For He is like a refiner's fire.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

## SERMON MEDITATION

*Meditation on 'Veni Emmanuel'*

Philip Moore

(b. 1943)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. 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, Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and for their families. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, and in (or in the silence) the prayers of our hearts and our minds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus 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.)*

## 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!*

## SOLO AT THE OFFERING

*The Holy City*

Stephen Adams (1844 – 1913)

arranged by Donald Hunt (1930 - 2018)

Timothy Flynn, *bass*

Last night I lay a sleeping, there came a dream so fair; I stood in old Jerusalem beside the temple there. I heard the children singing, and everywhere as they sang, me thought the voice of angles from heaven in answer rang: Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing: Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to your king!

Then me thought my dream was changed the streets no longer rang, hushed were the glad Hosannas the little children sang. The sun grew dark with mystery; the morn was cold and chill, as the shadow of a cross arose upon a lonely hill. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Hark! how the angels sing. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your king.

And once again the scene was changed, new earth there seemed to be. I saw the holy city beside the tideless sea; the light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide, and all who would might enter, and no one was denied. No need of moon or stars by night or sun to shine by day. It was the new Jerusalem that would not pass a way. Jerusalem, Jerusalem sing for the night is o'er!  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna forever more.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Great Dreamer,

You dreamed up the stars in the sky.

You dreamed up that magic baby smell and the way cream sinks into coffee.

You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music.

You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen and the pure magic that is a six-foot-tall sunflower.

And in the midst of all of that, you dreamed up a dream for your people – a dream of hope and justice, a dream for eyes wide open, to both the world’s suffering and the world’s beauty.

So today, as we read scripture, we ask that you would plant that same dream in us.

Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may see what you see, and dream what you dream.

Gratefully we pray. Amen.

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**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

✠ now and forever.

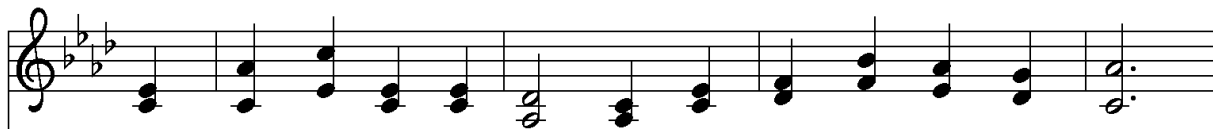
**Amen.**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

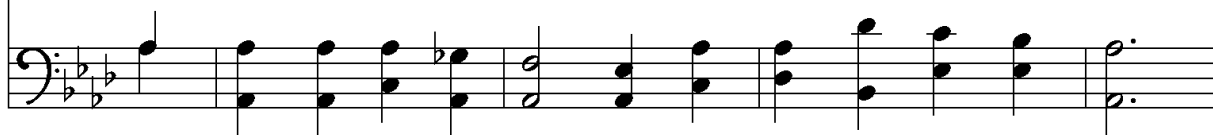
*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* “Haf Trones Lampa Färdig”

ELW 244

(vs. 1 & 4)



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Proclamation on 'Wachet Auf'*

Aaron David Miller  
(b. 1972)



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of “our sister” Karen Howard from Women at the Well; and In Loving Memory of my sister, Elizabeth Morton Schaal by Martha Kutas.



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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOLIDAY BASKETS:** The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will once again be collecting food and cash donations for our holiday baskets. Last year we filled ten baskets with non-perishable food items, gift certificates, and other items. We hope to do the same this season. All non-perishable food items will be used for the baskets and may be dropped off to the church office during regular business hours. *Please call the church office to arrange a delivery time.* Cash donations to help provide gift certificates can be sent to the church office and designated “holiday baskets”. Thank you for your donations.

**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 can be found in the church paper, in the weekly email, or by calling the church office, and completed forms may be mailed to the church office.

**ANGEL TREE GIFTS FOR STUDENTS AT P.S. #17.** We will once again be collecting gifts for our local elementary school, P.S. 17. You may sign up for a child(ren) by emailing the church office at [info@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:info@holytrinitybuffalo.org) or calling the office at 886-2400. Items may be dropped off to the church office on December 3, 4, 10 and 11 between 9am and 3pm. Or there will be a bin available for drop offs on Sundays December 6, 13 and 20 from 10am to 12pm in front of the bell tower. If those drop off times are not convenient, we can have someone pick up from your house. Simply call the church office to set up arrangements. Thank you in advance for your generosity!!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – COMMUNITY OF GOOD NEIGHBORS** – The Community of Good Neighbors is looking for volunteers to help pack grocery bags for siblings in Christ and Faith on the East Side of Buffalo through the CGN Food Pantry. Volunteers gather each Wednesday morning at Grace Lutheran Church 174 Cazenovia St., Buffalo from 8-9:30am. Please call Pr. Kwame Pitts at 716-553-0219.

**AMAZON SMILE:** With the holidays approaching we would like to remind everyone to select Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as the charity for AMAZON SMILE. This will ensure that a donation to HT will be made with each of your purchases through AMAZON SMILE.

**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Each week via Zoom at 9:30 am at

<https://zoom.us/j/427428740?pwd=Y1BZdUdLL3l4YU5QWnJUUTdkRlk4Zz09#success>. Join via Zoom ID 427 428 740. Password 849195.

**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.

**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.

# **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

## **Staff Contacts for Programs and Services**

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Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager  
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant  
Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)  
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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