



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent
Celebrating our 142nd 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

The opening words of Psalm 126 read, "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream." What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality. This Advent we are exploring what it means to dream alongside the prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we dream anew together and sow seeds of God's dreams for our world.

(Introduction and "Those Who Dream" by Sanctified Art LLC)

PRELUDE

Two settings of 'Freu dich Sehr'

Egil Hovland (1924 – 2013)

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

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.

WORDS OF CONFESSION

O Great Writer,

With a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers, there should be no end to my joy.

And yet, instead of decorating my very being with joy, I let it slip away like loose change.

Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David, I pass my remarkable beauty and love most day, unfazed. Forgive me.

Teach me the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive.

Maybe they have joy figured out.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People "Freu dich Sehr"

ELW 256

(vs. 1 & 3)

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

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.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 & 3

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.

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

THE READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The first reading for the Third Sunday of Advent is recorded in Isaiah, the 61st Chapter.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Heav'n, Heav'n

African American Spiritual
Harry T. Burleigh (1866 – 1949)

Colleen Flynn, *soprano*

I got a robe, you got a robe, all of God's children got a robe;
When I get to Heaven goin' to put on my robe, goin' to shout all over God's Heav'n,
Heav'n, Heav'n,
Ev'ry body talkin' bout heav'n ain't goin' there, Heav'n, Heav'n,
Goin' to shout all over God's Heav'n.

I got a shoes, you got a shoes, all of God's children got a shoes;
When I get to Heaven goin' to put on my shoes, goin' to walk all over God's Heav'n,
Heav'n, Heav'n,
Ev'ry body talkin' bout heav'n ain't goin' there, Heav'n, Heav'n,
Goin' to shout all over God's Heav'n.

I got a harp, you got a harp, all of God's children got a harp;
When I get to Heaven goin' to play my harp, goin' to play all over God's Heav'n,
Heav'n, Heav'n,
Ev'ry body talkin' bout heav'n ain't goin' there, Heav'n, Heav'n,
Goin' to shout all over God's Heav'n.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:46b - 55

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.
⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

SERMON MEDITATION

Veni Emmanuel

Flor Peeters
(1903 – 1986)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. 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.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, or in the silence of our hearts and our minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. 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

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion
from *Messiah*

George F. Handel
(1685 – 1759)

Colleen Flynn, *soprano*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator God,

Scripture is flooded with dream-like images:

**the lion lying down with the lamb,
justice rolling like a mighty river,
swords being beaten into plowshares,
the prisoner being set free,
good news to the oppressed,
the whole world rejoicing.**

To our human ears, there are times when these words can sound like nothing more than a far-off dream – downplaying prophecy to fantasy.

However, what we know is that to dream is to hope,

**and to hope is to imagine,
and to imagine is to wonder,
and to wonder is to believe,
and to believe is to live and breathe for your promised day.**

So give us the strength to listen as we dream, O God.

For deep down, we know your words are the very thing we need.

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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry "Puer Nobis"

ELW 249

(vs. 1 & 5)

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Freu dich Sehr

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

CHRISTMAS EVE - ONLINE

3:00pm - Family Christmas Story-time Live on Facebook

7:30pm - Celebration Service with Candlelight –
Facebook and Website

10:30pm - Celebration Service with Candlelight –
Facebook and Website

Our Pastors and Church Council have made the very difficult decision to hold Christmas Eve Services **ONLINE ONLY**.

This decision is out of love and care for our members, guests, and greater community. Our decision follows in line with similar congregations to our own. This year, even the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and St. Peter's in New York are suspending in-person gatherings. We stay apart now in our homes, so that when we are able to gather together, we are all still here.

We know that Christmas Eve Services are a very special part of all of our Christmas celebrations. We will miss being with you in person. However - God's promises and assurance of grace in Christ Jesus still come to us anew in this season.

To us a child is born, who is Christ the Lord!

We shall give thanks!

We shall celebrate and even join together
through our computer screens!

We will pray and remember!

And soon and very soon, we will gather together again.

Christmas Eve Online! 7:30 & 10:30pm



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Carolyn Ferraro and Rosemary Kryszczuk from The Kryszczuk Family; In gratitude for the blessings of my children; Grace, Jon, Emma and Aidan by Kathy Crissey; In Loving Memory of John Camilleri by Gail Camilleri; and for the Blessings for the Marriage of Laura Sachenik and Michael Padak.



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

ANGEL TREE GIFTS FOR STUDENTS AT P.S. #17. Gifts may be dropped off at Holy Trinity's "breezeway" door by Tuesday, December 15. If you are not able to drop off your gift, 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!!

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet today at 2:00 via the Canvas classroom. Please log-in at least 5 minutes before the start of class so that we may promptly start at 2 and work out any tech difficulties that may arise.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Mark your calendars for the meeting and more details to follow.

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 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

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