



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 27, 2020  
First Sunday of Christmas  
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**

*The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

## **PRELUDE**

*In dulci jubilo* BWV 729

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.*

## **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

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory* “Regent Square”

ELW 275

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score consists of four systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the final line of the hymn. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## **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 God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

## **THE READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3**

The first reading for the First Sunday of Christmas is recorded in Isaiah, the 61<sup>st</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Chapters.

<sup>10</sup>I 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.

<sup>11</sup>For 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.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SOLO**

*This is the Truth Sent From Above*

Cecil J. Sharp, English Folk-Carols

Ralph Vaughan Williams

(1872 - 1958)

Ryan Lockwood, *baritone*

This is the truth sent from above, The truth of God, the God of love; Therefore don't  
turn me from your door, But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing, which I do relate, That God at first did man create The next thing,  
which to you I tell, Woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, Till God the Lord did interpose For so a  
promise soon did run That He'd redeem us with a Son.

Thus He in love to us behaved, To show us how we must be saved And if you want  
to know the way Be pleased to hear what He did say.

Go preach the Gospel new, He said, To all the nations that are made And he that  
does believe in me, From all his sins I'll set him free.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of  
Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present  
him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every  
firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they  
offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,  
"a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

## SERMON MEDITATION

*In dulci jubilo* BuxWV 197

Dietrich Buxtehude  
(1637 - 1707)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. 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.**

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. 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. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**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

*Go Tell it on the Mountain*

African-American Spiritual  
Arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1866 - 1949)

Ryan Lockwood, *baritone*

Go, tell it on the mountains, over the hills and ev'rywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountains that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Saviour's birth!  
Refrain

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and brought us God's salvation. That blessed Christmas morn.  
Refrain

## 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**

Almighty God,

who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,

bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* "In Dulci Jubilo"

ELW 288

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Norman Dello Joio  
(1913 - 2008)



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller given by Pastor Lee, Heather and Griffin Miller; and In Loving Memory of Jack and Marion Grabenstatter from their grandchildren: Eric, Jonathan and Sarah.



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**

**POINSETTIAS:** Christmas flowers are now available. Please call the church office to set up a time to pick up your flowers.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** The annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Please call the church office if you would like a copy of the proposed 2021 budget or the proposed Constitution amendment.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, the following dates are available- January 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup>- 1 vase each. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for these or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at [msmarylschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:msmarylschmidt@gmail.com) or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Bible Study will be on a Christmas break, but will return January 11, 2021.

**FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP Happy Hour** will also be on a Christmas break, but will return January 8, 2021.

**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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