



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 6, 2020  
Second 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**

*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**

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

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

## **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 & FORGIVENESS**

Holy God,

**We wish that peace was something we could buy.**

**We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service, found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot.**

**We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when we are feeling our best.**

**However, what we have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over, whether or not we are feeling our best.**

**Today I confess, in front of this community of faith, that I need your help in this Advent season.**

**Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach me how to be a part of it.**

In the name of Jesus, I declare that God forgives you. May God's guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.


**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

# OPENING HYMN

*Savior of the Nations, Come* “Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland”

ELW 263

(vs. 1, 2, 6)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
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## **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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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*

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.

## **A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

## **THE READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

The first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent is recorded in Isaiah, the 40<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's  
hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”  
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SOLO**

*The Wilderness*

from *Two Biblical Songs*

Eric H. Thiman

(1900 – 1975)

Carolyn Lansom, *mezzo-soprano*

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, even with joy and singing. For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness. And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

## **SERMON MEDITATION**

*Veni Emmanuel*

Dennis Lovinfosse  
(b. 1947)

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. 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.**



Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and for their families. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. 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.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. 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**

*Schliesse, mein Herz*

from *Weihnachts-Oratorium* BWV 248

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

Carolyn Lansom, *mezzo-soprano*

Rebecca Torres, *violin*

Enclose my heart, these blessed miracles fast within your faith!  
Let these wonders, these divine works,  
Forever be the reinforcement of your weak faith.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of Peace,

**We would like to be as focused as John the Baptist – preparing the way, gathering the crowd, spreading the word of your arrival.**

**Maybe then we'd know peace.**

**However, more often than not, we are a swirling compilation of grocery lists, text messages, e-mails, and to-do lists.**

**So today, we ask for your help in preparing the way.**

**Start with our ears, and then move to our hearts.**

**We'd like to hear you more clearly.**

**Come quickly Lord, that we may know peace.**

**Gratefully we pray,**

**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.

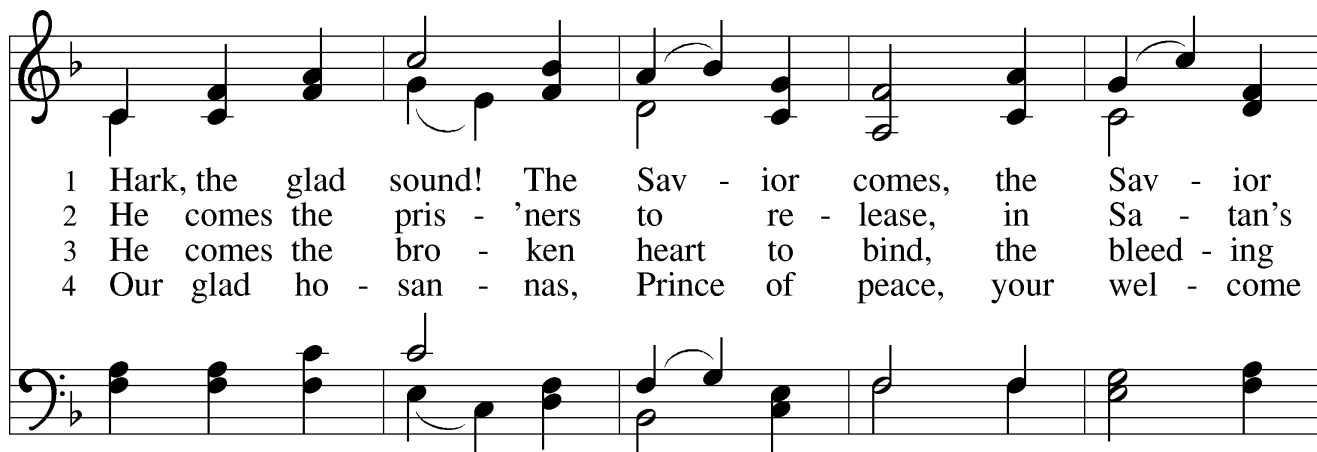
**Amen.**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Hark, the Glad Sound!* "Chesterfield"

ELW 239

(vs. 1 & 4)



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* BWV 661  
from the Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Sarah and James Bigham and Cornelia Ball by James Bigham; and In Celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Sheila and Juan Perez by Natalie Richards.



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. 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. Gifts may be dropped off at Holy Trinity's "breezeway" door Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am and 2pm or Sundays between 9:30am and 11:30am 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!!

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.

**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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## **HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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