



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Buffalo, New York

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Reconciling in Christ Sunday

Celebrating our 142nd Anniversary

Holy Communion – 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.

Following New York State guidelines, we kindly ask

- 1. that you keep your mask on during the duration of this service.*
- 2. that you follow the one way direction signs noted in the aisles.*
- 3. that our members and guests fill out the orange sheet for contact tracing purposes and leave at your seat in the pew.*

As our worship continues to be transformed,

we invite you to share your story and your worship experience!

Please check-in and share on any of our social media platforms.

You are invited to share the peace or any part of our worship via text message.

Please use #poweroftrinity for all your social media interactions.

You can find us on Facebook @holytrinitybuffalo, on Instagram @holytrinitybuffalo or on twitter @holytrinitybuff

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday celebration has been a way for faith communities, both RIC and those on their journey, to celebrate the work that they have done, as well as to take a stand in creating a worship celebration specifically for all of God's Beloveds, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expressions. RIC Sunday is set aside to highlight our shared ministry of hospitality and reconciliation for all of our siblings in Christ, with this year's theme centered on advocacy. We celebrate this Sunday as the anniversary of Holy Trinity becoming an RIC congregation. Today you will hear in prayers and preaching lifting up the justice and advocacy work we do in our community of faith.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude N°3 Mode de mi from Huit Pièces Modales

Jean Langlais
(1907 - 1991)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come! “Festal Song”

ELW 314
(vs. 1 & 4)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

You are invited to kneel or sit, as you are able

Holy God,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

Called by the Holy Spirit, as people of Christ, we gather together in the endless diversity of God's creation.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**God of Boundless love, you require each of us to love justice. May we follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter. May your love and grace fill our words and actions, turning us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and racism, to live for you and serve our neighbor. Soften our hearts and expand our awareness today to share in the spirit of the Kingdom of God, making the church a place where community is built to experience your grace. In your name, we pray,
Amen.**

Please be seated.

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

THE READING:

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak.

I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Lead, Kindly Light

Text: John Henry Newman (1801 – 1890)

Ciro Pinsuti

(1829 – 1888)

Carolyn Lansom, *alto*

Lead, kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom, lead thou me on!
The night is dark and I am far from home, lead thou me on!
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step enough for me.
I was not ever this, nor pray'd that Thou shouldst lead me on;
I lov'd to choose and see my path; but now, but now, lead me on.
I lov'd the garish day, and spite of fears,
Pride rul'd my will: remember not past years.
So long the pow'r hath blest me, sure it still will lead me on o'er moor and fen,
O'er crag and torrent, till that night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have lov'd long since, and lost a while.

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

SERMON MEDITATION

Le Banquet Céleste

Oliver Messiaen
(1908 - 1992)

Please stand, if able.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need...

Creator and endless weaver of our lives, we rejoice in your creation and its endless diversity. Your creativity and imagination create a sense of awe-filled wonder. As your care for creation is shown in its complexity and the changing of the seasons, teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made. Embolden us to work for climate and creation justice to preserve our tactile connection to you through creation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God who was made flesh, we ask for your forgiveness when we fall short to see you embodied in those around us. Give us eyes to see you in the lives of those who have been dehumanized; an immigrant, refugee, one recently incarcerated, those targeted because of systemic racism, sexism, transphobia, and homophobia. God, you know what it is like to be cast out, give us hearts to welcome those exiled from families or workplaces because of who they love. May your Spirit fill us with the courage, conviction, and dedication to work for justice knowing when we do, we are in fact caring for you.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Healer and Comforter, as each day brings new wonderings about the health of our family, friends, community, and nation, we remember that you can hold all we bring to you through prayer with sacred love. With hearts of joy and lament, we bring you the names and places of your people in need, speaking them aloud or in the silence of our hearts, now...

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the unknown, all that you are and all that you have been is without boundaries. Open our hearts and minds to the new possibilities that surround us each day. Help us to remember that through your love we are made new with each sunrise and filled with your Spirit in every breath. May this moment of worship be a touchstone of remembrance that we have something new to see and learn. Give us space to listen and see what you are showing us.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to see and love people we don't know yet, so we might continue to greet you in faith and be joyfully changed by who you are: wild and wonderfully endless in your diversity. Whisper sweet Spirited inspirations in our ears. Bless this community of faith with challenges to grow us, care to wrap us up when we are wounded, and an abiding fire for the justice you are bringing.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unlimited capacity for love and mercy, through your grace.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

We ask that you remain at your seat.

*You may share the sign of peace
with a head nod or peace sign.*

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

*Offerings and tithes may be left in the offering plate
located at the exit.*

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

This Day

Bob Chilcott

(b. 1955)

Carolyn Lansom, *alto*

This day will you strength us, this day will you bless us.

This day will you lift us, visit us for good.

This day inscribe for us a happy, happy life. This day hear our cry.

This day accept our prayers in mercy and favour.

This day support us with your righteous hand.

This day accept our prayers in mercy and favour.

This day, this day.

This day will you lift us, visit us for good.

This day inscribe for us a happy, happy life. This day hear our cry.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all the people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

At this table make us your body.

Form us to be a people of justice and peace.

Fill us with gratitude and generosity

that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Nourish our bodies so that we may be fed.

Teach us to see You, Christ, in those around us.

As we prepare this table for you, we prepare our hearts for your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

Please follow Pastor's instructions on the distribution of communion

All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. At this time we will be serving communion in a contact-less manner. In your pews you will find pre-packaged grape juice and wafers (gluten free are available, please see an usher at the entrance). The wafer can be found at the top of the cup (lift up the top, clear layer) and you will be invited to eat the wafer at the word, "The body of Christ given to you." You may then open the grape juice and drink at the word, "The blood of Christ given to you." Please leave the used and unused communion cups in the pews.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant “Kuortane”

ELW 313

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Bells from Three Characteristic Pièces

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

*Please wait until after the music to leave the church building
beginning with those seated closest to the Main Street doors
(back of church).*



*In order to follow NYS guidelines,
we are unable to host coffee and refreshments
after service until further notice.*



Today's ushers are Mike Day, Ron Leiser and Elizabeth Vihnanek. Worship Assistants are Robert Mann, Timothy Yap and Sofia Atlas.

The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Earl Kunz from his kitchen crew, the Lenten Lunch Bunch.



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.



ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

On February 17 we will be offering a variety of ways to receive your ashes in a safe environment.

We will be holding our annual Ashes on Run which will take place on Main Street from 7:30am – 9:30am. Individual Q-tips will be used by the Pastors to bless each person.

There will also be two services in the Main Church, one at **Noon** and the other at **7:00pm**.

Both services will be also be Livestreamed.

In order to keep everyone socially distanced, individual ashes will be provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKE ASHES AT HOME: Join us live on Facebook on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00pm as Pastor Lee demonstrates making ashes from old palm branches at home. To make your own ashes, gather together 1) any old palm branches; 2) a fireproof box or aluminum foil; 3) a match; 4) some olive oil. Instructions will be provided at our Facebook Live Event!

WIGGLY GRACE SPACE: This space, located to the left of the baptismal font, is intended especially for families with toddlers and preschoolers, recognizing that smaller kids are more engaged when they can see what is going on. Small tables and chairs, and age-appropriate soft toys help to keep our little ones occupied. The Wiggly Grace Space, as mentioned, is designed for toddlers/preschoolers (2-4 years of age) who are too old for nursery care (birth to 3 years) and not quite old enough for faith formation (Pre-K-12). This is a space that is more open than in the pew and just the right size for our littlest ones to move around and get their wiggles out! Here they can engage in age-appropriate activities while still experiencing worship in the sanctuary alongside their families and the whole community in Christ here at Holy Trinity. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to worship with their child(ren) when this space is being used. During COVID, the activities in the space will be limited and we ask that while in this space you continue to follow the HT COVID precautions (wear a mask, social distance, etc.).

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.

WINE AND CHOCOLATE PAIRINGS! Save the date for Thursday, February 11th at 7:30pm for a virtual wine and chocolate pairings event! For just \$60.00, this online event includes four bottles of wine and chocolates, available for pick up or delivery. Enter into our virtual tasting room for a guided experience with an expert from Addy's Fine Wine and Spirits. This makes a perfect gift for Valentine's Day! Register at our website wnylutherancharities.org.

BEER LOVERS UNITE! Give your taste buds a unique and exciting experience! For \$49 join us and a Master Brewer from Community Beer Works for an evening of fun you won't want to miss! Includes six beers (three flagship and three seasonal), house-made chips, and beer cheese. Register at www.wnylutherancharities.org.

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

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Gary Herrnreiter, Eliana Perez,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Barb Wozniak

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