

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

A Family Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 24th, 2021
5:00 pm

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 creatures welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status.

We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space through the protection against oppression internally, in institutions, interpersonally and structurally.

We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

For the love of one another, we kindly ask

- 1. that you keep your mask on during the duration of this service.*
- 2. that our members and guests fill out the blue sheet and leave at your seat in the pew.*

We look forward to continuing to update our practices as we move forward.

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

Check-in and share on any of our social media platforms using #poweroftrinity.

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

Large print bulletins are available at the entrance ways

INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

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PRELUDE

Chorale Improvisation on Still, Still, Still

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

Ringing of the Bells

WELCOME AND WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

Please stand, if able.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful “Adeste Fideles”

ELW 283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

A CHRISTMAS LITANY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light shines.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Thanks be to God, for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, the light of the world.

Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

His name shall be called Immanuel, meaning, “God with us.” (Luke 2:7)

Do not be afraid, for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people!

Glory to the new born king!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The Old Testament reading for Christmas Eve is recorded in Isaiah, the 9th Chapter.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

What Child Is This? “Greensleeves”

ELW 296 (vs 1-2)

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Luke 2:1-7

This is the Nativity of Our Lord, according to Luke.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem “St. Louis”

ELW 279 (vs 1-2)

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing "Mendelssohn"

ELW 270 (vs 1-2)

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

A FAMILY HOMILY

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

The First Noel "The First Nowell"

ELW 300 (vs. 1,2,4)

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

- 4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

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.

OFFERING

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

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the
grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of
your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

Amen.

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885

“Old Hundredth”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

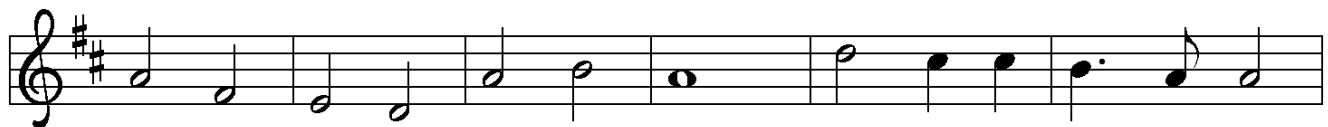
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



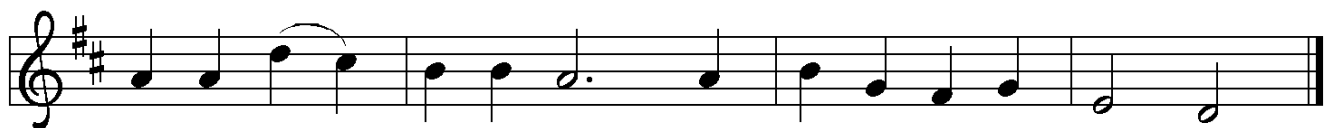
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and 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.

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. Please take your pre-package communion cup that you received at the entrance (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.

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

Children with flashlights may now light them. As the acolytes and ushers pass the light to members of the congregation, pass it to the person next to you. DO NOT TIP a lighted candle.

THE READING OF LIGHT: St. John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Silent Night, Holy Night “Stille Nacht”

ELW 281

- 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing,
Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World “Antioch”

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on 'Antioch'

Craig Phillips
(b. 1961)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.



Acknowledgements

The Organs of the church
are gifts to the
Glory of God
In Loving Memory of
Margaret L. Wendt.

The pianos in the church are gifts to the glory of God
given in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Kuhn
*(given by the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. York
and Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Kuhn);*
Virginia and Dorothy Mayer *(by the Mayer Estate);*
Mildred R. Wales *(by the Wales Family);*
Gerrie Schleifer *(by her family);*
and by S. Dwane Thomas, M.D.

The timpani in the church are gifts given to the
glory of God in loving memory of Ruth H. Geiger.



Many thanks to those who participated in today's service

Worship Assistants

Natalia Bavaro

Avery Best

Ushers

Paul Biesinger

Karen Kolb

Elizabeth Vihnanek

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of
Dr. Robert Schopp by the Schopp Family

Gifts for Christmas poinsettias decorating the church were received from:

In loving memory of:

My husband Andre from Loretta Queffelec

James and Elizabeth Manzella by Mary and Kurt Kaufmann

Carl and Frances Kaufmann by Kurt and Mary Kaufmann

The DeSabio and Carden Families Loved Ones by the Carden and Greenough Families

The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller by his wife, Joan

Theresa "Grammy" Pomietlarz and our Grandparents by Justin and Kristen Pomietlarz

Earl J. Kunz, Jr. by Sarah, Margaret and Heidemarie Kunz

Ruth and Michael Bloos by Heidemarie Kunz

My mother and father by Doris Ratcliffe

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Loew and Maxine Loew by Janet and Michael Day

Ron Frank by Anne Schneider

Carolyn, Henry and David Hughes and Margarita and Raúl Saona by Karen and Raúl Saona

Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Palmer by Prudence Hollands

Brother and sister Nelson J. Palmer and Jane P. Schaefer by Prudence Palmer Hollands

Melissa Thomasula by her Family

Elaine Fuhlbruck by the Carmer, Thomasula, Fuhlbruck, Addison and Hoebel Families

Marion Cooper by her sister Paula Bradley

Phillip T. Bradley by his mother Paula Bradley

William Bradley by his wife Paula Bradley

Departed loved family members by Pam and Neil Kattermann

Doris and Walter Stroman and Marion Trier by the Battaglia Family

Father, Frank Ricchiazzi, by the Battaglia Family

Susan W. Lask by Frederick, Martha and Richard

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rick by Tony and Sue Lizauckas

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lizauckas Sr. by Tony and Sue Lizauckas

William, Eleanor, Nancy and Carol Wolf by Linda Patricola

Dan, Josh, Daniel and Johnny by Gail Camilleri

Susan Biesinger by Paul Biesinger

Our mother, Eileen Petrisko by JoAnn Chavanne and Susan Petrisko

Richard Bundt, Irving, Alberta and Carol Bundt by Susan Bundt

Our Parents by Ron and Donna Leiser

Elaine Fuhlbruck by Paul Hoebel

Louis, Vera and Robert Hoebel by Paul Hoebel

Father, Jesse James Terry; Mother, Reveinor Fears Terry; Sister, Shirley Davis; Sister, Barbara Jean Terry by Clyde Terry

In loving memory of:

Dave Grabenstatter by his wife Nanc and son Eric
Frederick and Elizabeth Maas by Doug Alderdice
Hugh and Anne Alderdice by Doug Alderdice
All who have left us over the years, many thanks by Guy Huber
Kenneth A. James by Ruth James
John Camilleri, Jr. by Ruth James
Emma and William Bauchle, Richard W. Bauchle, Albert T. Bauchle, Robert and Shirley
Klas and Robert R. Klas by Paul and Karen Bauchle
Ruth and Jack Alexander by The Hunt Family
Jo and Bud Hunt by The Hunt Family
Our Parents by Jayne and Doug Lloyd
Parents, Clifford and June Hehr by David Hehr
Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Staffel and Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Hehr by David Hehr
Darwin C. Staffel by Nephew, David Hehr

In honor of:

Richard J. Lee Family by Richard Lee
Family by Linda and Norma Horton
Holy Trinity's faithful choristers and musicians by Justin and Kristen Pomietlarz
Our families by Janet and Michael Day
New members (Ma, Linda, Val and Clyde) by Pam and Neil Kattermann
Rose Dolan by Susan Bundt
Our Family by Ron and Donna Leiser
and the Blessings of my children: Lauren and Brad Nieman and Matthew Carmer by
Claire Carmer
and the Blessings of my grandson Wesley Nieman by Claire Carmer
and many thanks to the HTLC staff by Guy Huber
All my children and grandchildren, what great blessings I have received, by Guy Huber
Our grandkids Ella Hope and Hannah Grace Bauchle, and Walker James O'Connor by
Paul and Karen Bauchle
Helen and Martin Wright by Kristen, Matthew, Avery and Clayton Best

Merry Christmas to All

By Guy Huber

To the Glory of God

And my Beloved Son Randy Goulet by The Goulet Family

In Thanksgiving for:

The blessings of Alexander and Emily by Kurt and Mary Kaufmann

In memory of loved ones by: Carol Alderdice, Alberta Matesick, Dave and Mary Linda Schmidt, Gwen Schopp, David Schopp, Sue Spindler



A Few Announcements

Our Christmas Day service will be held at 10:30 am in the Chapel. Our Sunday services will remain the same; 8:30am in the Chapel and 10:30am in the Main Church.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 27 for the Christmas holiday.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at the completion of the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Copies of the proposed budget are available, please call the church office.

HOLY CONVERSATIONS: Mark your calendar for the next Holy Conversation related to the perceived strengths and gifts of the new pastor on January 11 from 10-11:30am in the Fellowship Room and 7-8:30pm via Zoom. Resources in preparation for the meetings will be on the information tables on January 2 and 9, 2022.

*On behalf of Dr. Carroll, Pastor Maynor
and The Church Council ~*

We would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas!

Regular Sunday Service of Holy Communion

8:30 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Main Church

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Barb Wozniak, President

Emily Notari, Vice-President

Guy Huber, Treasurer

Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Eliana Perez,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist

Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster

kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org

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. Brenda Maynor, Pastor

pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Dr. Julius Carroll, Intentional Interim Pastor

drcarroll@holytrinitybuffalo.org

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