



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH BUFFALO, NEW YORK

A Family Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 24th, 2022
7:00 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.*

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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VOLUNTARY

Prelude on 'Greensleeves'

Richard Purvis
(1913-1994)

Ringling 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:

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*

Refrain

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

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

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 2:1-20

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.

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!"

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. Seminarian Teresa O'Connor

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*

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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

(The congregation may be seated.)

THE OFFERING

As part of our outreach into our neighborhood, city and region, Holy Trinity has supported a variety of social ministry agencies throughout the years. This year, we have shared gifts with:

Caribbean Children's Foundation, Lutheran Charities, The Network of Religious Communities, School 17, Niagara Lutheran Health System, LuMin, Voice Buffalo, LCLC, Reconciling Works, Buffalo Adult & Teen Challenge, Lutheran World Relief, Big Table Community Café, Friends of the Night People, Teacher's Desk, Buffalo Burrito Project and Journey's End.

Your generosity at Christmastime helps to support these valuable ministries. Thank you!

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

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.

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.

(The congregation may be seated.)

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Beginning with those seated closest to the altar, you are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the presiding minister. Receiving the wafer in your hand, you are invited to dip or “intinct” the wafer into the chalice. There is wine in the silver chalice and grape juice in the ceramic chalice. For those who prefer, gluten-free wafers are available by simply asking the Pastor as you are served. Portable communion cups are also available for those who are not comfortable sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion in-person. Adults or children choosing not to receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. The Pastors will bring the sacrament to persons in the pews that are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so. Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord.

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 1:1-5

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.

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.

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!

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

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

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.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Mendelssohn”

Sir David Willcocks
(1919–2015)



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.



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:

Mr. and Mrs. John Hollands and Family by Prudence C. Hollands
Judge and Mrs. Robert N. Palmer and Family by Prudence C. Hollands
Our grandparents and Theresa "Granny" Pomietlarz by Justin, Kristen and Lillian Pomietlarz
James and Elizabeth Manzella by Mary and Kurt Kaufmann
Carl and Frances Kaufmann by Kurt and Mary Kaufmann
Jeanette A. Kuck by Kurt, Mary, Alexander and Emily Kaufmann
The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller by his wife, Joan
Doris & Walter Stroman, Marion Trier & Frank Ricchiazzi by The Battaglia Family
Our parents, George and Della Diehl by John Sullivan and Cynthia Lange
Our parents, Richard and Mary Sullivan by John Sullivan and Cynthia Lange
My wonderful husband Paul by Millie Nikischer
William and Mabel Johnson by Thomas Johnson
My parents Raúl and Margarita Saona by Raúl Saona
My parents Carolyn and Henry Hughes, my brothers Robert and Carlton Hughes and my nephew David Hughes by Karen Saona
Louis, Vera and Robert Hoebel by Paul A. Hoebel
Elaine Fuhlbruck by Paul A. Hoebel
My parents by Doris Ratcliffe
Elaine Fuhlbruck by the Carmer, Addison, Fuhlbruck and Thomasula Families
Dr. Ralph and Maxine Loew by Michael and Janet Loew Day
Jacqueline Ruth Holcombe by her Family
William, Eleanor, Carol and Nancy Wolf by Linda Patricola
Dave Grabenstatter by his wife Nanc and son Eric
Grandparents, Anne and Hugh Alderdice by Doug Alderdice
Grandparents, Frederick and Elizabeth Maas by Doug Alderdice
Our parents, Viola and Layton Leiser by Ron and Donna Leiser
Our parents, Victoria and John Caffarelli by Ron and Donna Leiser
John, Dan, Josh and Daniel by Gail and John Camilleri
Melissa Thomasula, Elaine Fuhlbruck, William Fuhlbruck and Aaron Fuhlbruck by their Families

Earl and Virginia Kohler, Roger Kohler and Michael Alan Zaehring by Melanie (Kohler) and Michael Durkee
Our parents, siblings and grandparents, Richard W. Bauchle, William and Emma Bauchle, Albert Bauchle, Robert Klas, Shirley Klas and Robert R. Klas by Paul and Karen Bauchle
Our parents by Jayne and Doug Lloyd
Marie Guzdek and all of our other loved ones that have passed by Nicole and Chris Guzdek
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
Randall F. and Marie Smith by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones
W. Dana and Elizabeth Jones by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones
Randall E Smith by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones
Marshall Tyler by Ryon and Eileen Fleming
Earl J. Kunz by Heidi, Margaret and Sarah Kunz
Ruth and Michael Bloos by Heidi Kunz
Ruth & Jack Alexander and Jo & Bud Hunt by The Hunt Family
Our beloved parents by Joe and Martha Kryszczuk
Ken James by Ruth James
John Camilleri, Jr. by Ruth James
Our grandparents by Holly Holdaway and Daniel Culross

In honor of:

My children, Lauren, Brad and Matthew and grandson Wesley by Claire Carmer
Our families by Michael and Janet Loew Day
The Richard J. Lee Family by Richard Lee
Our grandkids, Ella Hope, Hannah Grace and Walker James by Paul and Karen Bauchle
Helen and Martin Wright by Kristen, Matthew, Avery and Clayton Best

To the Glory of God

By Jim and Norine Dunnigan

In Thanksgiving for:

the blessings of Alexander and Emily by Kurt and Mary Kaufmann

In memory of loved ones by: Carol Alderdice, Paul Biesinger, Richard Keuck, Dave and Mary Linda Schmidt, Sue Spindler



Many thanks to those who participated in today's service

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Seminarian Teresa O'Connor

Worship Assistants

Crucifer: Henry Peterson

Torch Bearers: Sofia Atlas, Max Peterson

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***A Few Announcements***

Our Christmas Day service will be held at 10:30am in the Chapel. Our New Year's Day service will be held at 10:30am in the Main Church.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023 at the completion of the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Agenda items include: approval of the budget and candidates for council.

*On behalf of Pastor Jeremiah, Pastor Miranda,*

*The Rev. Seminarian Teresa O'Connor*

*and The Church Council ~*

*We would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas!*

# ***HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP***

## **Congregational Council**

Barb Wozniak, President  
Kathy Crissey, Vice-President  
Guy Huber, Treasurer  
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Paul Bauchle, Matthew Brown,  
Linda Horton, Fred Howard, Pat Lonergan,  
Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

## **Staff Contacts for Programs and Services**

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Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager  
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant  
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

The Rev. Jeremiah P. Smith, Transitional Pastor  
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The Rev. Miranda Hammer, Part-Time Interim Pastor  
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