

Cover

The Festival Service
of
Holy Communion

Christmas Eve

2023

Pre-Service Music
at 9:45 p.m.

The Chancel Choir presents their program
Christmas – Made in Buffalo
featuring music by Western New York composers
and works written specifically for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Candlelight Service at 10:30 p.m.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC FROM THE GALLERY 9:45 p.m.

Seven Christmas Miniatures

Caroline Mallonée

Freelance Composer, Buffalo, NY;

Director, Walden School Creative Musicians Retreat, New Hampshire

(b. 1975)

I. ...at the time of the evening breeze...

III. *The Root of Jesse*

VI. *News of Great Job*

I Wonder as I Wander

Arr. John Jacob Niles

Text: Appalachian Carol

(1892–1980)

Colleen Flynn, *soprano*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Call to Advent

J. Jerome Williams

Text: Quodlibet, *Veni Emannuel* and *Picardy*

(b. 1940)

Erin Alexander, *conductor*

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing
earthly minded, for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth our full homage to demand. Alleluia!

THE PROCESSION OF THE CHOIR AND CLERGY

Please stand as you are able.

Divinum Mysterium

c. 13th Century Plainsong

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 – c.410)

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten,” tr. H.W. Baker, J.M. Neale

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega: He the source, the ending he.
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long expected; Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Please be seated.

Conditor Alme Siderum

Rob Deemer

Text: Latin, 7th Century

Professor of Composition, SUNY Fredonia

Composed 2015 for Harmonia Chamber Singers

(b. 1970)

Creator of the stars of night, thy people’s everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, save us all, and hear Thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
hast found the medicine, full of grace, to save and heal a ruined race.

Thou cam’st, the Bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to evening-tide;
proceeding from a virgin shrine, the spotless victim all divine.

At whose dread name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
and things celestial Thee shall own, and things terrestrial, Lord alone.

O Thou whose coming is with dread, to judge and doom the quick and dead,
preserve us, while we dwell below, from every insult of the foe.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

There is no rose

Stephen Kennedy

Text: Anonymous, c. 15th Century Instructor of Sacred Music, Eastman School of Music
Composed 2019 for the Schola Cantorum, Christ Church, Rochester

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu: *Alleluia*.
For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space: *Res miranda*.
By that rose we may well see that he is God in persons three: *Pari forma*.
Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth: *Transeamus*.

Christmas Eve Lullaby

Martin J. Wimmer

Text: by the composer Retired Teacher, Depew UFSD; WNED-FM 94.5 Radio Host
Composed 2017

All is quiet, all are sleeping. No one worried, no one weeping.
Goodness, kindness, in the air, caring, sharing, hear my prayer.

All is quiet, all are sleeping. No one worried, no one weeping.
Free us Lord, from our cares on this Christmas Eve.
Lift us up from on High. Lead us to your Light.

All is quiet, all are sleeping. No one worried, no one weeping.
Goodness, kindness, in the air, Caring, sharing, hear my prayer.

All is quiet, all are sleeping. No one worried, no one weeping.
Baby boy, brings us joy on this Christmas Eve.
Lift us up from on High. Lead us to your Light.

Vergente mundi vespere from the Cantata *Voices of Light* Carrie Magin
Text: Latin, 7th Century Professor of Composition, Houghton College
Composed 2013 for Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio

Erin Alexander, *conductor*

Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening-tide;
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the spotless victim all divine.

Glow from *Walt Disney's World of Color Winter Dreams* (2013) Eric Whitacre
Text: Edward Esch (b. 1970) (b. 1970)

Erin Alexander, *conductor*

Softly falls the winter snow, whispers to the sleeping world below:
"Wintertide awakes," morning breaks and sets the earth aglow.

In gentle tones of warmest white, proclaim the glory of Aurora's light.
Sparrow sings in a clear clean voice, a sweet, silver carol for the season born.
Radiant wings as the skies rejoice, Arise and illuminate the morn.

Softly falls the winter snow, whispers to the sleeping world below:
"Glow, like the softly falling snow."

Mary Had a Baby African-American Spiritual
Arr. William L. Dawson
(1899 – 1990)

Holly Holdaway, *mezzo-soprano*

Mary had a Baby, My Lord!
Where was He born? Born in a manger.
Oh, Mary had a Baby born in a manger, Mary had a Baby, My Lord!
What did they call Him? "King Jesus."
Oh, Mary had a baby, He was called "King Jesus," Mary had a Baby, oh yes!
He is called "King Jesus," "Mighty Counselor," "King Emmanuel,"
"Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," "Prince of Peace."
Mary had a Baby, My Lord.

A Medieval Triptych of Three Latin Carols Roland E. Martin

Text: Latin, Moosburger Gradualia, 1360

Professor of Organ, University at Buffalo

Organist-Choirmaster, St. Joseph University R.C. Church

(b. 1955)

I. Ad Novum Annum (At New Year)

Behold, there is a new year,
the King of Heaven is born,
the prince of the world has been caught,
man has been made free.

It is the time of exulting,
it is the Day,
the Law has come,
the King has come,
so has the Fountain of Grace.

Therefore not in vain
are the traditions of the prophets,
peace has come to the world,
oh illustrious people of David.

Refrain

Therefore it is right to play,
to give ear to songs,
to declare new praises,
to sing psalms to our King.

Refrain



It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute
and harp, to the melody of the lyre.
For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at
the works of your hands I sing for joy. (*Psalms 92*)

Our congregation has been blessed extraordinarily
with members and friends whose love of music and
exceptional generosity make possible the special
presentation we offer each Christmas Eve.
Holy Trinity Church wishes to acknowledge and give
thanks for gifts given in loving memory of:

Elizabeth Lochhaas,
Jack Grabenstatter
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth H. Eckhert, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. James Marion Geiger,
Helen Geiger, and Ruth H. Geiger

THE SERVICE 10:30 p.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church!

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.

Visitors interested in membership may talk with a Council representative at the Council desk, contact the Church office or indicate on the yellow Welcome sheet.

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. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. 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.

ANTIPHON

O Emmanuel

from the Great "O" Antiphons

Peter Hallock

(1924- 2014)

Nicole Brendel, *cantor*

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the desire of the nations and their salvation:
come and save us, O Lord our God.

Please stand as you are able.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

The Christmas Proclamation

Today, on the eve of the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and created man and woman in God's own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;

Thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;

One-thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

In the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Emperor Octavian Augustus;

The whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE 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.

The congregation may be seated.

THE MOTET

The Christmas Candle

Roberta Bitgood (1908-2007)

Text: Anna Hempstead Branch (1875-1937)

Organist-Choirmaster,

Composed 1937

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (1947-1952)

First Female National President, American Guild of Organists

Come, heav'nly child, and on this place shed the sweet halo of thy grace.
O burning love, O heavenly fire, consume me with Thy deep desire.
As in the holy Christ child's name this blessed wax shall feed the flame,
so let my heart its fires begin and light the heav'nly Pilgrim in.

THE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

THE GOSPEL PROCESSION

Canzona per sonare No. 4

From *Canzoni per sonare con ogni sorte de stromenti*, Venice 1608

Giovanni Gabrieli

(1557-1612)

Holy Trinity Brass Ensemble

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

In 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 Our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS FESTIVAL PROCESSION

O Come, All Ye Faithful “Adeste Fidelis”

ELW 283

Setting by James Biery

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, 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 given;
Word of the father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson

Please stand as you are able.

THE HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing “Mendelssohn”

ELW 270

Setting by James Biery

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*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 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, Journey's End, Buffalo Adult & Teen Challenge, Church Mission of Help Counseling, Friends of the Night People, Big Big Table Community Café and Lutheran World Relief.

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

THE ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING

Calm on the Listening Ear of Night (2004)

Stephen Paulus

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

(1949-2014)

Commissioned by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in recognition of its
125th Anniversary by James Bigham, *organist-choirmaster* (1977-2017)

Calm on the listening ear of night, calm heaven's melodious strains,
where wild Judea stretches far her silver mantled plains.

Celestial choirs from courts above shed sacred glories there;
and angels with their sparkling lyres, make music on the air.
The answering hills of Palestine send back the glad reply: the Dayspring from on high.

O'er the depths of Galilee there comes a holier calm;
Sharon waves, in solemn praise, her silent groves of palm.

Calm on the listening ear of night, come heaven's melodious strains,
where wild Judea stretches far, her silver mantled plains.

Celestial choirs from courts above shed sacred glories there;
and angels, with their sparkling lyres, make music in the air.

"Glory to God!" the sounding skies loud with their anthems ring.
"Peace to the earth; good will to men, from heaven's eternal King!"

Light on thy hills Jerusalem! The Savior now is born;
and bright on Bethlehem's joyous plains breaks the first Christmas morn!

Please stand as you are able.

THE PRAYER AT THE OFFERING

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

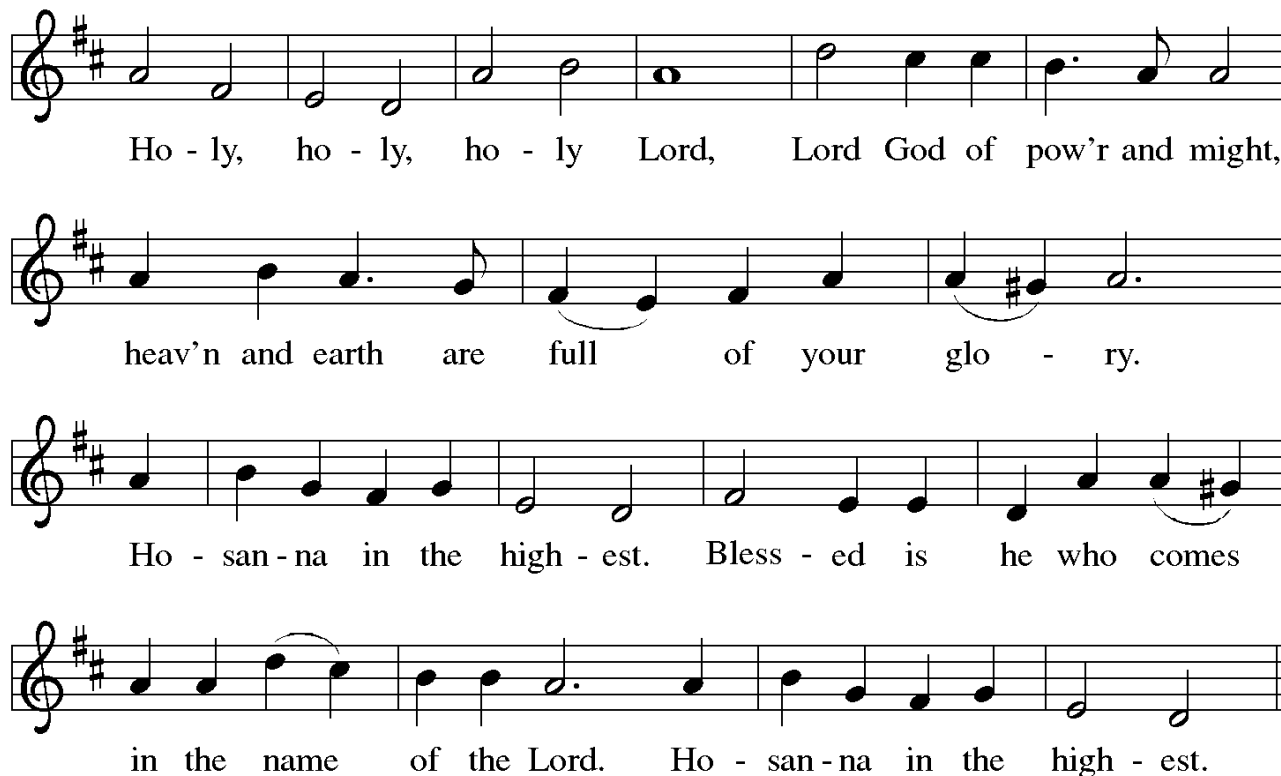
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE 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 gave himself for us, 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. Be known among us anew. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people and 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.

THE 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 AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Cantabile from *Automates*

Bernard Andrès
(b. 1941)

Beth Anne Breneman, *harp*

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Stephen Shewan

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

Freelance composer;

Composed 2022

Faculty emeritus, Williamsville East High School

WORLD PREMIERE

Professor of Composition, Roberts Wesleyan University

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold:
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."

The Peace of God

John Wellman Becker (1927-2021)

Text: The Rev. Dr. Ralph Loew (1908-1996)

Organist-Choirmaster (1954-1972),

Senior Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (1944-1975) Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Composed 1964 for the Three Choir Hymn Festival, Buffalo, NY

The Peace of God, we pray will strengthen all our days,
The joy that startles and consoles when faith sustains our ways.

The peace of God we seek will stir through all despair,
Till righteousness and justice come, to all men everywhere,

The peace of God we know within the loving heart
That helps us risk and even fail lest we from truth depart.

The peace of God is shared through Christ our living Lord,
When deeds match in selfless love His peace our sole reward.

O Gift of Glorious Sunrise

Caroline Mallonée

Composed 2015, premiered by the Vocális Chamber Choir

(b. 1975)

Today dawned cold so long ago, As dark gave way to light,
All slept; the earth was quiet. Today emerged from night.

On a bed of russet hay, As Mary dreamed,
A small baby opened wide his eyes
To streaks of red and rosy rays
Skating 'cross the wintry skies.
Christmas Day!

The stable stirred; the world awoke. Sunlight graced the earth.
A golden day, Day of a holy birth.

Today dawns cold on land, sand and sea.
Children open wide their eyes
To streaks of rose, a painted sky.
O gift of glorious sunrise!
Golden Christmas Day!

Please stand as you are able.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

You may be seated as worship leaders light candles beginning at the aisle.

As you light the next candle down the row, please lean the unlit candle to the flame.

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

(1802 – 1856)

Arr. Dudley Buck

(1839 – 1909)

Roger VanDette, *tenor*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ
was born! O night divine; O night, O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we
stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from the
Orient land. The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger – in all our trials born to be
our friend. He knows our need! He guardeth us from danger. Behold your King!
Before the lowly bend! Behold your King; your King, before him bend!

Please stand as you are able.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

THE CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Silent 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.
2. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia.
Christ, the Saviour, is born!”
3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light!

God is with us!

Emmanuel!

May the light of Christ, rising in glory
dispel the shadows in our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

THE BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you,

✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace within your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

Please extinguish your candles.

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the World “Antioch”

Setting by Robert A. Hobby

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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

THE DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Antioch”

Craig Phillips
(b. 1961)



Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson – Preacher
The Rev. Richard Neal – Celebrant

Reader

Ron Pellnat

Worship Assistants

Lead Crucifer: Timothy Yap
Lead Torches: Erys Yap, Henry Flynn
Missal Bearer: Avery Best
Pastors' Crucifer: Maddie Brown

Ushers

Doug Alderdice, Paul and Karen Bauchle,
Karen Kolb and David Pellnat

Instrumentalists

Mark Filsinger, James Francisco, Richard Riederer, *trumpets*
John Georger, *French horn*
Gerald Bacon, Diana Bley, Richard LaRouche, *trombones*
Steve Solook, *percussion*
Beth Ann Breneman, *harp*
Kristen Pomietlarz, *organ and piano*



Holy Trinity Chancel Choir

Christmas 2023

Justin T. Pomietlarz, *conductor* 2003

Amie Adams, <i>soprano</i> 2022	Erin Alexander, <i>alto</i> 2022
Michael Blaschke, <i>tenor</i> 2015	Ryan Blatz, <i>bass</i> 2023
Nicole Brendel, <i>soprano</i> 2022	Cris Campana, <i>soprano</i> 1997
Jennifer Carden, <i>soprano</i> 2019	Daniel Culross, <i>tenor</i> 2005
Colleen Flynn, <i>soprano</i> 2004	Timothy Flynn, <i>bass</i> 2002
Jamie Gangemi, <i>alto</i> 2023	John Georger, <i>bass</i> 2008
Sarah Haykel, <i>alto</i> 2023	Holly Holdaway, <i>soprano</i> 2005
Connor Hesch, <i>baritone</i> 2023	Tyler Huk, <i>tenor</i> 2022
Brian Ibsen, <i>bass</i> 2022	Carolyn Lansom, <i>alto</i> 2008
Stefanie Lizauckas, <i>soprano</i> 2005	Ryan Lockwood, <i>baritone</i> 2019
Riley Nahlik, <i>tenor</i> 2023	Kristen Pomietlarz, <i>alto</i> 2017
Anne Schneider, <i>alto</i> 1987	Roger VanDette, <i>tenor</i> 1996
Ky VerHoef, <i>baritone</i> 2022	Jennifer Yap, <i>soprano</i> 1998
Erys Yap, <i>soprano</i> 2023	

Each singer in the Chancel Choir makes a devoted personal commitment of time and musicianship to sing in this beloved ensemble. We honor them by recognizing the year in which they first came - sharing their voice, heart and spirit - to sing at Holy Trinity.

Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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);*
by S. Dwane Thomas, M.D.;
and by Paul and Judy Kroll.

The harpsichord in the church is a gift to the glory of God
given by the late Jeanette and Roy Kuck
and by Mary Kaufmann.

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; and
In Loving Memory of Jack and Marion Grabenstatter from their grandchildren:
Eric, Jonathan and Sarah; and
In Celebration of our granddaughter Natalie's 13th birthday on Christmas Day from Donna
and Ron Leiser.

Gifts for Christmas poinsettias decorating the church were received from:

In loving memory of:

Our parents and grandparents, Richard W. Bauchle, William and Emma Bauchle, Uncle
Albert Bauchle, Robert Klas, Shirley Klas and brother, Robert R. Klas by Paul and Karen
Bauchle

The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller by Joan D. Miller

My beloved, by Mary Kaufmann

James and Elizabeth Manzella and Carl and Frances Kaufmann by Mary Kaufmann

Our parents and grandparents by Pat and Dave Ulrich

William/Mabel Johnson by Thomas Johnson

Our dear friend, Andy Burgio, by David and Mary Linda Schmidt

Our parents Layton & Viola Leiser, John & Victoria Caffarelli by Ron and Donna Leiser

Sandra Walker and Family by Thomas Johnson

Elaine Fuhlbruck by Paul A. Hoebel

Louis, Vera and Robert Hoebel by Paul A. Hoebel

Edward and June Erler by The Erler's

William, Eleanor, Carol and Nancy Wolf by Linda Patricola

Karl and Ruth Huber by Guy Huber

Karl B. Huber, Jr. by Guy Huber

Elaine E. Fuhlbruck from her Family

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

Mr. and Mrs. John Hollands by Prudence P. Hollands

Dave Grabenstatter by his wife Nanc and son Eric

Grandparents Frederick and Elizabeth Maas by Doug Alderdice

Grandparents Hugh and Anne Alderdice by Doug Alderdice

Theresa "Granny" Pomietlarz and our Grandparents by Justin, Kristen and Lillian
Pomietlarz

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

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

George and Della Diehl by John Sullivan and Cynthia Lange

Richard and Mary Sullivan by John Sullivan and Cynthia Lange

Parents Margarita and Raúl and sister Alicia by Raúl Saona

Parents Carolyn and Henry Hughes and brothers Robert and Carlton by Karen Saona

Kenneth James by Ruth James

John Camilleri, Jr. by Ruth James

John, Daniel, Josh and Dan by Gail and John Camilleri
Kenneth James by Gail and John Camilleri
Shane Johnson by Craig and Barbara Johnson
Earl and Virginia Kohler, Roger Kohler and Dennis Kohler by Melanie Kohler-Durkee
Michael Zaehring and Mike Durkee by Melanie Kohler-Durkee
John Schleifer, Jr. by Carolyn Jolley
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
Shirley Mooberry by Wendy L. Pollock
Nick Campana on his 90th birthday in heaven – December 22 by Loving Wife Cris Campana
Melissa Thomasula and Elaine Fuhlbruck in love by the Thomasula Family
Earl J. Kunz, Jr. by Heidemarie, Margaret and Sarah Kunz
Ruth and Michael Bloos by Heidemarie Kunz

In honor of:

Helen and Martin Wright by Kristen, Matthew, Avery and Clayton Best
Our grandchildren, Ella Hope, Hannah Grace and Walker James by Paul and Karen Bauchle
Our sons, their wives and our grandchildren and great granddaughters by Ron and Donna Leiser
Richard J. Lee's Grandchildren by Richard Lee
All who help out the Fellowship/Hospitality Committee by Guy Huber
and love of Wesley, Lauren, Brad and Matthew by Claire V. Carmer
Our God and Lord Jesus by Claire V. Carmer
In Honor of the family and to honor the memory of my grandson, Dakota Jacob Lee by Dr. Richard Lee
Our Families by Holly Holdaway, Daniel Culross, Carina Culross
Our magnificent Holy Trinity Choirs Family by Justin, Kristen and Lillian Pomietlarz
Our Family and Grandchildren by Janet and Michael Day
Basil and Saskia Ranson by Elizabeth Vihnanek
All our family in love by the Thomasula Family
The community of saints that is Holy Trinity, by Pastor Rich Neal

In gratitude for:

All the love and prayers received while I healed by Kristen Best

In Thanksgiving to God for:

The blessings of Alexander and Emily by Mary Kaufmann
The congregation of Holy Trinity for extending the call for me to serve, and for the many people and circumstances that have flavored my life by Pastor Jeff Wilson

In memory of loved ones by: Carol Alderdice, Paul Biesinger, Jim and Norine Dunnigan, Pastor Neil and Pam Kattermann, Sue Spindler

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE INSTALLATION WORSHIP SERVICE for Pastor Jeff Wilson will be held at Holy Trinity on Friday, January 5, 2024 at 7pm, followed by a reception. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

TRANSITION CONTINUES, AND IT'S BIGGER THAN YOU THINK! — Our transition season at Holy Trinity was not complete when Pastor Jeff arrived in November. When God said to Israel, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isa. 43:19), there was more on the horizon than a new administration. The world had changed, and so must Israel’s way of life. They would rebuild upon ancient foundations, but the building would have a new look for a new day.

The same is true for us at Holy Trinity. The foundation upon which we have built is solid and is to be celebrated. The details of the life we build on that foundation will change as we respond in new ways to a new and different world. And as our transition progresses toward the “new thing” God is doing, it’s important that all of you have a hand and equal share in shaping the transition.

In January we will begin a series of transition events designed to celebrate our foundation and shape our future ministries as Pastor Rich leads us in “Celebrating the Holy Trinity Story.” We will recall the rich history of the congregation from as far back as our memory goes to this day. What have been our high points? Our lows? Our stabilizing in-betweens? What have been our oases of shelter and renewal? What have been our desert or wilderness experiences? Where have we experienced God sustaining us with manna and leading us to new places?

Make plans now to join Pastor Jeff and the Church Council in Redeemer Hall on Saturday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, as Pastor Rich leads us in “Celebrating the Holy Trinity Story.” Please call the church office by Wednesday, January 10 to make your reservation.

OUR CHRISTMAS DAY service will be held at 10:30 am in the Chapel.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at the completion of the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Immediately following the 10:30 meeting, we will be holding a potluck dinner. Please bring your favorite dish to pass and join us for fun and fellowship.

Regular Sunday Service of Holy Communion

8:30 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Main Church

We would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas!

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Jennifer Yap, *President*

Kathy Crissey, *Vice-President*

Fred Howard, *Treasurer*

Linda Horton, *Secretary*

Paul Bauchle, Matthew Brown, Gail Camilleri,
Christopher Huber, Karen Kolb, Pat Lonergan,
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*

John Busch, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*

Andrew Kraus, *Incoming Director of Buildings and Grounds*

Charles Ryniec, *Steward of Buildings and Grounds*

Erin Alexander, *Youth Choir Director*

youthchoir@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson, *Lead Pastor*

pastorwilson@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Richard Neal, *Pastor*

richneal@together.net

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