



A Service of Holy Communion

January 8, 2023

Feast of the Epiphany

If you would like to receive more information about Trinity Church, please sign our guest book, located near the entrance. Everyone is welcome to enjoy refreshments and conversation after worship. Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania, and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide.

Cover image: The three magi, from the Bladelin Alterpiece by Rogier van der Weyden, upon which our window is based.

This centering prayer was written by Madeleine L'Engle.

Welcome to Trinity's gathered community! We are together on-site and online!

The people of Trinity Church gather around a table piled high with spiritual food, and there is a place for you and everyone at the table, whatever your religious practice may be. If you are at Trinity in person, know that this congregation supports anyone who wears a mask to reduce risk of infection. Please feel free to receive communion and participate in the service as fully as you want. If you are watching the Facebook Live Stream, you may add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time! If you are on-site, you can use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshippers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down! WiFi internet access is publicly available. Use the "Trinity Open" network with the password "Welcome!"

Trinity Church is a metropolitan house of prayer, a community of worship and spiritual inquiry, welcoming all people. Recognizing our common brokenness, yet rejoicing in the reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ, we nurture one another in our spiritual life together. This communal worship service is many things, including an offering of your prayers. You may light a candle on one of the candle walls at any time during worship as a tangible way to make that prayer offering, or if you are online, request a candle lighting in the comments, and someone on-site will light a candle on your behalf. If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued.

Children, with all their sounds and movements, are a welcome part of the gathering for worship. It is perfectly appropriate to keep your kids with you in the pew. If your baby or toddler would be happier being able to crawl around and play in the care of our fully vaccinated nursery attendant, the nursery is also available. You can find the nursery by going through the door near the baptismal font in the front right corner of the church. Additionally, there is now a Kids' Corner in the back-right corner of the pews. It is an enclosed and safe space for small children (attended by their parents) to play quietly on the floor while staying in church. Please note that there is a changing table located in the nursery. Additionally, there is a room in the back left corner of the church that has a rocking chair where you can attend to your child.

Name tags are not required, but they sure help! You'll find sticky tags and markers on a table in the red carpet area near the entrance.

PRELUDE

"STILL STILL STILL" AUSTRALIAN LULLABY

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Thank you, God, for being born,
You who first invented birth
(Universe, galaxies, the earth).
When your world was tired & worn
You came laughing on the morn.

Merry Christmas! Wondrous day!
Maker of the universe,
You the end, & you the source
Come to share in human clay
And, yourself, to show the Way.
Amen.

Thank you, most amazing Word
For your silence in the womb
Where there was so little room
Yet the still small voice was heard
Throughout a planet dark & blurred.

OPENING HYMN

"We three kings"



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



O star of won - der, star of night,



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come!
The glory of God is rising upon you!
Though darkness still covers the earth
and dense clouds enshroud peoples,
upon you God now dawns,
and God's glory will be seen among you!

*The Bible readings
are taken from
The Inclusive
Bible:
The First
Egalitarian
Translation by
Priests for Equality.*

Continued on next page

Nobody set out to write The Bible. The Hebrew Scriptures were created over many centuries by many people to record the Jewish People's experience of God. The same is true of the Christian Scriptures, some of which were letters written to a specific audience in response to specific needs—and were then found to be helpful to the faithful even after fulfilling their original purpose.

The nations will come to your light
and the leaders to your bright dawn!
Lift up your eyes, and look around:
they're all gathering and coming to you—
your daughters and your sons
journey from afar, escorted in safety;
you'll see them and beam with joy,
your heart will swell with pride.
The riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of the nations will come to you—
camel caravans will cover your roads,
the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praises of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

“What Star”

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
forth the King, and sa - ges to his crib to bring.

The Middle Reading fills the role of a Bible reading, but it doesn't come from the Bible. It is our way of trying to listen for God's ongoing word as it is spoken outside the limits of the Bible. Most often, we turn to contemporary poets for this reading.

MIDDLE READING

“CHRISTMAS BEGINS” BY HOWARD THURMAN

Howard Washington Thurman (1899 – 1981) was an African-American author; theologian, educator; church pastor and civil rights leader. His theology of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders within the movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among people,
 To make music in the heart.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

"What Star"

2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the
rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 2: 1-12

After Jesus' birth, which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod, astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written:

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me, so that I may go and offer homage, too."

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star that they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

It is customary (but not required) to stand for the Gospel reading because it symbolizes the mystical presence of Christ.

The four Gospels hold the core of Christian spiritual wisdom, reflecting the earliest stories and images of Jesus. Like all Scripture, they are not definitive prescriptions but narrative stories requiring endless interpretation.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“HAVE YOU SEEN A CHILD?” FROM “AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS”

BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

SOPRANO: LAURA MUNSON; TENOR: JOHN CLAYTON; BASES: BRANDON MECKLENBURG, TIM LANE

Have you seen a child the color of wheat, the color of dawn?

His eyes are mild, His hands are those of a King, as King He was born.

Incense, myrrh, and gold we bring to His side, and the Eastern star is our guide.

Yes, I know a child the color of wheat, the color of dawn.

His eyes are mild, His hands are those of a King, as King He was born.

But no one will bring Him incense or gold, though sick and poor and hungry and cold.

He's my child, my son, my darling, my own.

Have you seen a child the color of earth, the color of thorn?

His eyes are sad, His hands are those of the poor, as poor He was born.

Yes, I know a child the color of earth, the color of thorn.

His eyes are sad, His hands are those of the poor, as poor He was born.

But no one will bring Him incense or gold, though sick and poor and hungry and cold.

He's my child, my son, my darling, my own.

The Child we seek holds the seas and the winds on His palm.

The Child we seek has the moon and the stars at His feet.

Before Him the eagle is gentle, the lion is meek. Choirs of angels hover over His roof and sings Him to sleep.

He's warmed by breath, He's fed by Mother who is both virgin and queen.

The child I know on his palm holds my heart.

The child I know at his feet has my life.

He is my child, my son, my darling, my own...

And his name is Amahl.

The sermon invites your curiosity and thoughtfulness about the theme of worship, and is intended to evoke your thoughts rather than direct them. A recording of the sermon is posted to the parish website each week, usually by Tuesday.

In spirit or in body, please stand.

This creed comes from the United Church of Canada. Like the Nicene Creed that it reflects, it is an expression of faith intended as a symbol of solidarity with other Christians throughout history but not as a pledge of allegiance required for membership. Participate at your own level of comfort.

SERMON

THE REV MATT LINCOLN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's Creation.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus,

crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Leader and the People pray responsively.

Let us pray.

O Christ, Son of God, yet born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

O Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayer.

Jesus, Savior, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives and hear our prayer.
Glory to you forever. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Now would be a great time to add a comment to the Live Stream!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*This prayer comes
from the Church of
England's Common
Worship.*

*These prayers are
an effort to pray
with one voice even
though we have a
diversity of needs
and hopes.*

Your financial support is not only a practical necessity. It can also be a very meaningful symbolic gesture, expressing your gratitude for the blessings in your life and your hope for health in the world. You can place cash or a check in the big blue urn at the head of the aisle or [donate online here](#), or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256. You can also get there by scanning this QR code:



In spirit or in body, please stand.

This Eucharistic Prayer is adapted from Steven Shakespeare's Prayers For An Inclusive Church.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"NOEL NOUVELET" TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL ARRANGED BY JOHN RUTTER

Noel nouvolet, Noel chantons ici,
Devotes gens, crions a Dieu merci.
Chantons Noel pour le roi nouvolet.

L'ange disait: Pasteurs, partez d'ici
L'ame enreposit le coeur rejoui;
En Bethlehem trouverez l'agnelet.

En Bethlehem, etant tous reunis,
Trouvent l'enfant, Joseeph, Marie aussi.
La creche etait au lieu d'un bercelet.

Bientot les rois, par l'etoile eclaircis
De l'orient dont ils etaient sortis
A Bethlehem vinrent un matinet.

Voici mon Dieu, mon Saveur Jesus Christ,
Parqui sera le prodige accompli
De nous sauver par son sang vermeillet.

English Translation:

Nowell, sing nowell, good people gathered here,
Offer thanks ye faithful, to the news give ear.
Sing we nowell, a new king born today.

Unto humble shepherds came the angel near;
Hence, said he, to Bethlehem, be ye of good cheer.
Seek there the Lamb of God, love's own pure ray.

When to Bethlehem they came in lowly fear,
Found they gentle Mary with her son so dear.
Heaven's mighty Lord all cradled in the hay.

Eastern sages seek him, in the darkness drear
By a star illumined shining forth so clear,
Guiding them to Bethlehem away.

Now doth our Savior Jesus Christ appear,
Bringing salvation promised many a year
By his redeeming blood this happy day

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

All are welcome to receive Communion at Trinity Church. No Exceptions!

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 God thanks and praise.

We thank you loving God, for you did not abandon us or stand far off but came in awful nearness with the urgency of love. In creation's dawn, you gave birth to all that is; to the people of Israel you revealed yourself and shared the human story.

Now we praise you for the Word made flesh born of Mary's body, nurtured in her womb, cradled in her arms, greeted by her song. The fullness of God dwells in his flesh, a touch of welcome for the one thrown aside, good news of bread for the hungry and poor, a shepherd to find those who are lost.

Now we are caught up, body and soul resound with the glory of music divine, echoing through the hallowed earth:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless'd is the one who comes

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

*From
Deutsche Messe
by F. P.
Schubert*

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that they may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: **“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.”**

Therefore we proclaim him as creation’s host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Author of blessings, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We are following a pattern of going back and forth between using an alternative interpretation of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks and then using the traditional Prayer Book version for a few weeks.

This version of the Lord's Prayer was written by Monica Furlong (1930-2003), a British author, journalist, and activist.

Jesus revealed a new, personal sense of relationship with God by addressing God as something like "Papa." Always feel free to use your most meaningful name for God in saying the Lord's Prayer.

The blessing is from the Church of England's Common Worship.

Now, as Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**God, who cares for us,
The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe.
Let kindness, justice and love shine in our world.
Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.
Give us the food and the hope we need for today.
Forgive us our wrongdoing
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.
Protect us from pride and from despair
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.
In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,
while worlds come and go.
Amen.**

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Were not our hearts burning within us as we walked along the road?

RECEIVING COMMUNION

For those of you online, you may partake in communion using your own bread and wine or any substitutes that are meaningful to you.

For those in the building, you have several options: 1) stay in your place and receive communion from a communion kit that you picked up in the entrance to the church, or 2) bring a communion kit with you to the gathering near the altar and receive it in the company of others, or 3) come up to the altar and receive a piece of pita or a gluten-free rice cracker, or 4) come up, receive a piece of pita and ask the celebrant to dip it in the chalice so you can receive the wine as well.

PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray:


**God of new beginnings,
the veil between us thins as we draw near
around your wisdom and table.
Strengthen and renew us,
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit;
and may your light so shine through us
that all may welcome your coming presence.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. Amen.**

BLESSING


May God keep you in all your days.
May Christ shield you in all your ways.
May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light.
Amen.

HYMN

"ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.


Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

DISMISSAL

Go now on an adventure of faith, hope, and love, meeting Christ in the world. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"NOEL NOUVELET" ARRANGED BY MARK SEDIO

*In spirit or
in body, the
congregation
stands to sing
hymns.*

*Some of the
music in this
service used with
permission to
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reproduce under
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from Church
Publishing
(Hymnal 1982;
Wonder Love
& Praise; Lift
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*Our spiritual
practice is
renewed as we
leave here and
begin again
to work the
promises of the
covenant.*



Trinity is an Episcopal Church in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania.

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 YouTube: [Trinity Church Buffalo](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityChurchBuffalo)
 Instagram: [@trinitychurch.buffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinitychurch.buffalo)
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Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner

VESTRY

Kayla Kisenwether, Senior Warden
 John Gillespie Jr, Junior Warden
 Bing Sherrill, Treasurer
 Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk
 John Alduino
 Erickson Contreras
 Judy Fitzgerald
 Edward Fries
 Timothy Lane
 Megan McElfresh
 JoAnne Sundell
 Jeffrey Tooke

CHOIR MEMBERS

Laura Munson, Section Leader
 Cheryl Fisher
 Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick
 Christina Kinney
 Suzanne Fatta, Section Leader
 Gretchen Brand
 Sue Doherty
 Laura Schleicher, Section Leader
 Carol Siracuse
 John Clayton, Section Leader
 Dan Galley
 Steve Shanley
 Brandon Mecklenburg, Section Leader
 Timothy Lane
 Tom Owen
 Ignacio Villa

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Greeters: TBD
Readers: Missy Stolfi, Carol Case Siracuse, TBD
Guest musicians: Harry Fackelman, saxophones; John Hasselback, III, trumpet;
 Claire Fisher, violin; Nancy Baun, cello
Counter: Kayla Kisenwether
Baker: Kelly Cardamone

All services are in person AND online:

Sunday @10:30am In-person worship while live streaming on Facebook and YouTube. The Sunday online Live Stream service remains accessible as a video recording on Trinity's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages after the service is over.

Sunday @7:00pm Featuring poetry and jazz, in person in the Chapel and on Zoom. Trinity @7 resumes tonight.

Wednesday @Noon Prayer and holy conversation, in person and on Zoom

Thursday @7pm The wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery, in person and on Zoom

Email your request for a [link to the Zoom worship services here](#).