



## Christmas Celebration and Pageant

Christmas  
12.24.2020

## **Welcome to Trinity's online community!**

**As you watch the Live Stream of this service, feel free to add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time!**

**You might want to light a candle and place it near you. During the service, you will be invited to light a candle if you haven't already, so at least gather what you need for that moment if you wish to participate.**

**This service, streamed live on Facebook, is a complete offering in itself. Nevertheless, it is followed by an opportunity to participate in online communion via Zoom. A link to that Zoom meeting will appear in the comments on Facebook at the end of this service.**

When we don't have to practice social distancing, 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. For now, this is a time of sharing and connecting with one another, knowing that we are bound together by God's love. 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.

Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church and a member parish of the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania in the United States and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide. If you would like to learn more about Trinity, see all our contact information on the last page.

### **PRELUDE**

**"A CHILD IS BORN" BY THAD JONES**

*Cover image:  
Madonna Egg,  
Christmas 2020,  
by Matt Lincoln*

# OPENING HYMN

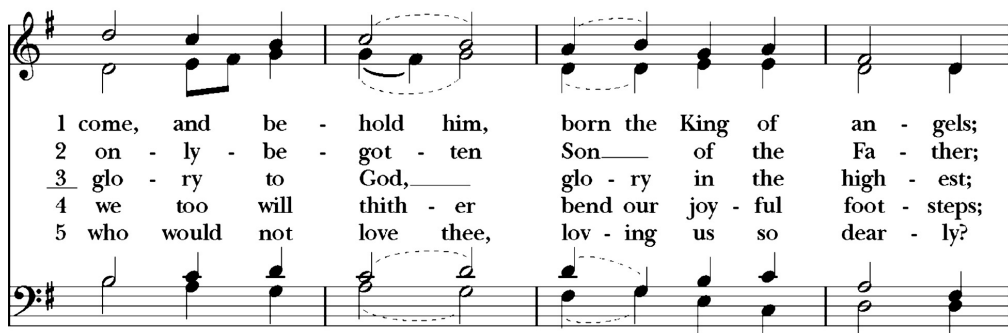
"O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —  
 \*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —  
 \*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

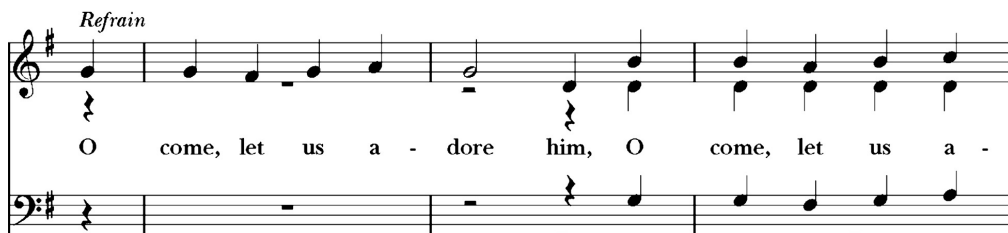


1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;  
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*



*While we ordinarily read from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation, on this extraordinary day, we read the beautiful language of the King James Version.*

*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.*

*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 NATIVITY AS TOLD IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-20

**A**nd it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

Hail the blessed morn, see the great Mediator  
Down from the regions of glory descend!  
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,  
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thy aid.  
Star in the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

**"BRIGHTEST AND BEST" ARRANGED BY SHAWN KIRCHNER**

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker, and Monarch, and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,  
Odours of Edom and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

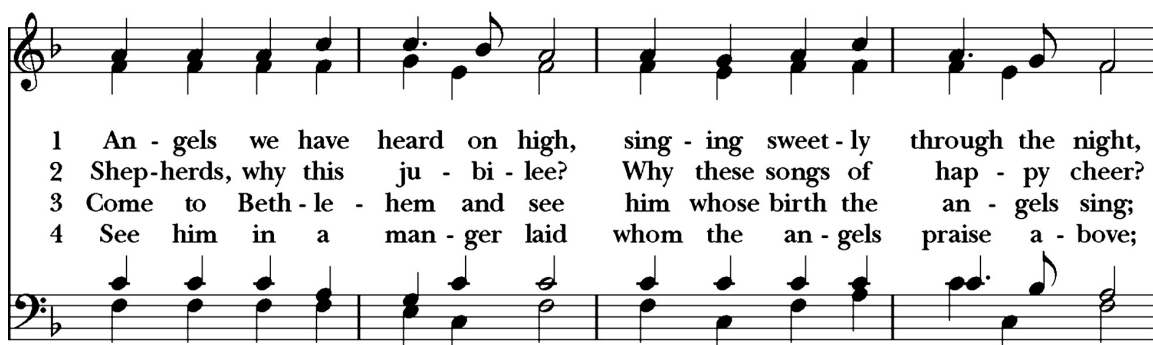
The sermon invites your curiosity and thoughtfulness about the theme of worship, and is intended to evoke your thoughts rather than direct them. An audio recording of the sermon is posted to the parish website each week, usually by Tuesday.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

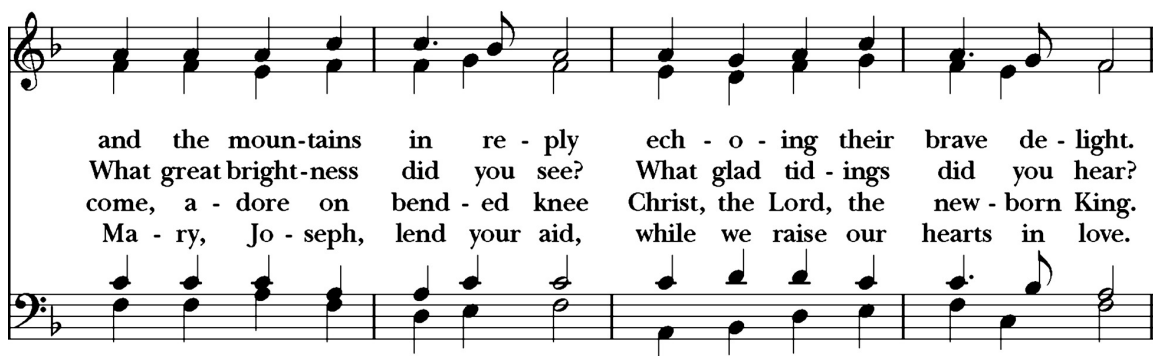
THE REV. MATTHEW R. LINCOLN, RECTOR

### 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;



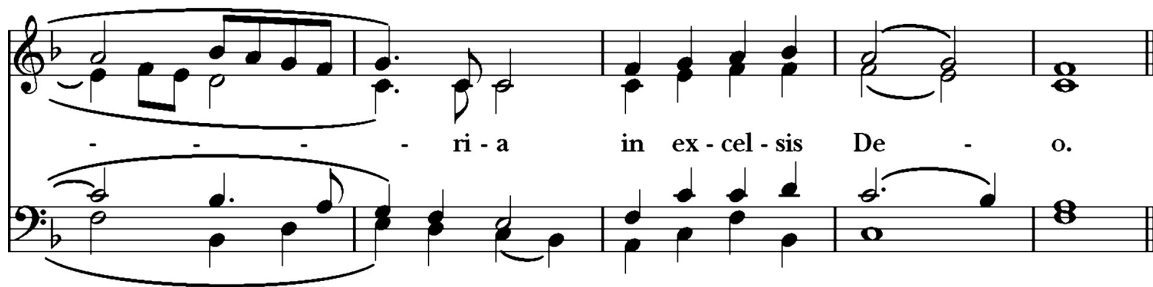
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



*Refrain*  
 Glo - - - - - ri - a



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



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

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

## BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God,

I invite you to entrust to God your deepest concerns and most hesitant hopes.

I bid you pray for the sick and the dying, and for those who dignify the lives of the sick by caring for them.

I bid you pray for those whose work is so basic to life that they are overlooked rather than honored.

I bid you pray for children and their parents and teachers, struggling to awaken fascination and engagement with the wonders of the world while being required to keep the world and each other at a distance.

I bid you pray for the poor and the destitute, and for those who are prevented by misfortune or injustice from being able to meet their own needs or achieve their dreams.

I bid you pray for the broken hearted, for those who have lost hope, and those who have lost loved ones.

Lay open your hearts, and with confidence, lay down your burdens before God. For there is good news of great joy. Woven throughout the history of human life is the story of creativity, generosity, self-offering, acceptance and love. Resounding throughout history are the echoes of the story of God in the world. Open your hearts to God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

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

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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!*

**THE I HATE CHRISTMAS CLUB: A PAGEANT FOR 2020**

*We are following a pattern of using an alternative interpretation of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks and then using the traditional Prayer Book version for a week or two, and then going to a different interpretation for a few weeks, then the Prayer Book version, etc*

*This version of the Lord's Prayer is what many of us grew up learning. It is also the version shared at the end of many 12 Step meetings. Although it is important to stay fresh and engaged by the words of our prayers, it is also important to be reminded that we as individuals are part of a great cloud of witnesses who have been inspired to turn to God in prayer throughout the ages.*

*\*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.*

***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. While the church is not open, Trinity has made a commitment to keep staff on the payroll. Plus, all the Trinity services are available online, with Zoom, Facebook live streaming, and the Trinity Church Buffalo YouTube page. You can [donate online here](#). You can also mail a check to Trinity at 371 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14202. Thank you!***

## ANTHEM

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.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

## BLESSING

May the kindness of the animals, the joy of the angels, & the amazement of the shepherds be yours this Christmas, and the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who animates and guides us be with you now and always..

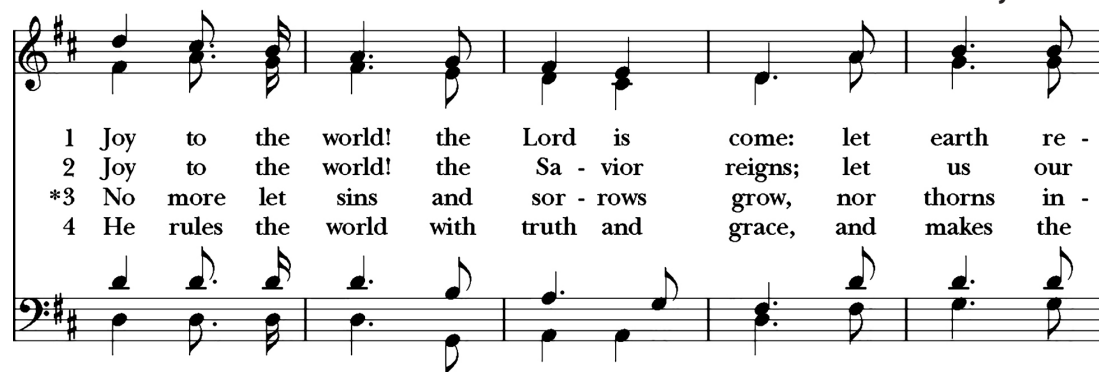
**Amen.**

"SILENT NIGHT" ARRANGED BY PETER ANGLEA

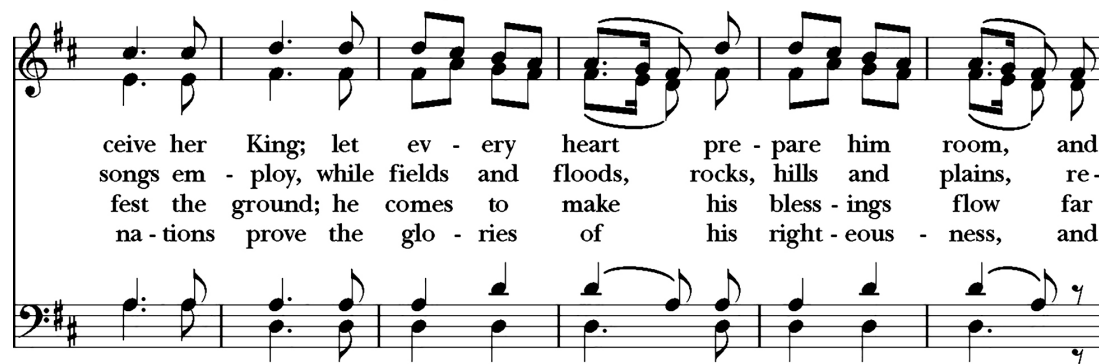
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# CLOSING HYMN

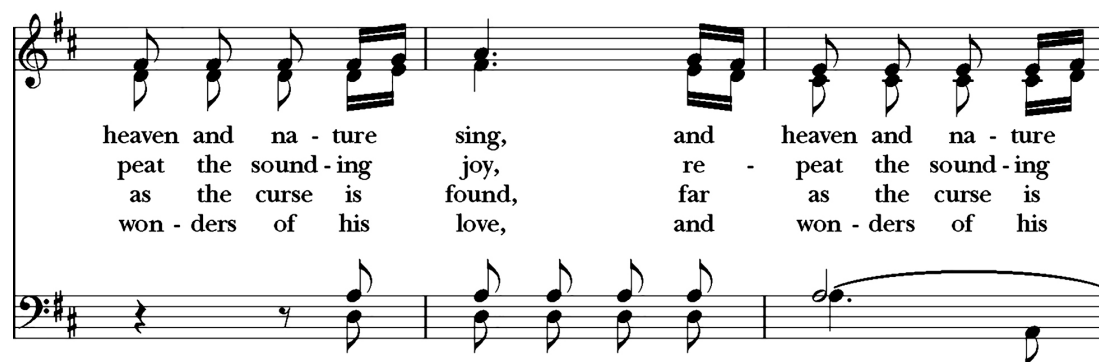
"JOY TO THE WORLD"



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,



## DISMISSAL

Take your leave, trusting that we are made one in Christ, to shine in the world with God's light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

"REGENT SQUARE," AN ARRANGEMENT OF "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY" AND  
"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS GIVEN" BY EDWIN C. JOHNSON

### Thank you to our virtual choir members:

Megan McElfresh Augspurger	Cheryl Fisher	Tyler Mecklenburg
Susana Bernhardt	Jennifer Frey	Daphne Messersmith
Jan Beurskens	Dan Galley	Laura Munson
John Clayton	Christina Kinney	Stephen Shanley
Susan Doherty	Tim Lane	Carol Siracuse
Suzanne Fatta	Catherine Lincoln	Jeffrey Tooke

Audio and video engineering by John Hasselback III

### And to our pageant participants:

Amelia Earnheart	Nico Mott
Brayden Duvall	Viviana Mott
Paris Duvall	Llama video by Joanne Sundell
Bridget LoFaro-O'Neill	Directed and produced by
Zachario LoFaro-O'Neill	Colleen LoFaro-O'Neill

## SERVICES @TRINITY

In the interest of staying connected and sharing what we can of our spiritual life together, here's our service lineup:

**SUNDAY MORNING @10:30** Live streaming on Facebook. The Sunday online Live Stream service remains accessible as a video recording on Trinity's Facebook page and YouTube page after the service is over.

**TRINITY @7** Zoom gatherings on Sunday night @7pm featuring poetry and jazz.

NOTE: No Trinity @7 on December 27.

**WEDNESDAY @NOON** Zoom gatherings offering prayer and holy conversation.

**THURSDAY @7** Zoom gatherings @7pm offering the wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery.

**THURSDAY @NOON TO 2PM OR BY APPOINTMENT** The church will be open for private prayer or meditation. You can chat quietly with one of the volunteers, or if you need, you can ask them to pray with you. Please wear a mask. You are required to sign a registry at the entrance to be used in the event contact tracing is necessary.

This plan will be in place for the foreseeable future. It's clear we will not have any sizable groups for many months to come. If you have ideas about safe ways to use our building for spiritual enrichment, please contact the church office to share your ideas and plans for implementation. Please continue to read the newsletters to stay informed.

Click here to [find the readings](#).

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

**Save the Date: February 24, 2021** On that Wednesday, at 7pm, Trinity will host a Zoom appearance from Debby Irving, author of "Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race." While in her 40s, a graduate course in "Race and Cultural Identity" started Irving on her journey to comprehend how much she had benefited over the years because she was white. Irving writes plainly and clearly about her discoveries and how she began to question her long held assumptions about race and culture. We encourage you to read the book though it is not a requirement. Info on tickets to come.



## STAFF

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**Paul Cena, Organist and Choir Director**  
 prcena@verizon.net

**Colleen O'Neill, Parish Administrator and Director of Children's Ministries**  
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**Sarah Caputi, Caretaker**  
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**Meghan Arnold, Caretaker**  
 marnold@trinitybuffalo.org

**Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner**

## VESTRY

Teresa Maciocha, Senior Warden  
 Judy Atkinson Miller, Junior Warden  
 Bing Sherrill, Treasurer  
 Susana Bernhardt, Clerk  
 John Alduino  
 Joe Chamberlain  
 Edward Fries  
 Karen Hall  
 Jane Kearns  
 Christina Kinney  
 Kayla Kisenwether  
 Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick  
 Tom Owen

## CHOIR MEMBERS

Paul Cena, *Director*  
 Laura Munson, *Section Leader*  
 Betsy Curtis  
 Cheryl Fisher  
 Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick  
 Christina Kinney  
 Suzanne Fatta, *Section Leader*  
 Susana Bernhardt  
 Sue Doherty  
 Mimi Dow  
 Carol Case Siracuse  
 John Clayton, *Section Leader*  
 Peter Dow  
 Dan Galley  
 Steve Shanley  
 Tyler Mecklenburg, *Section Leader*  
 Peter Curtis  
 Tom Owen

## TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

**Vocalists:** Laura Munson, Suzanne Fata, John Clayton, Brandon Mecklenburg  
**Guest Musicians:** Bobby Militello, flute; Harry Fackelman, soprano saxophone; Claire Fisher, violin; Nancy Baun, cello; Matt Lincoln, bass guitar  
**Reader:** John Ramsey  
**Cyber Sacristan:** Jeffrey Tooke

**Sunday @10:30am** Reflection, prayer, and music

**Sunday @7:00pm** An encounter with God through poetry and jazz

**Wednesday @Noon** Prayer and holy conversation

**Thursday @7pm** 12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality

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[https://www.youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K)

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