

Trinity Episcopal Church



Christmas Eve

The Rev. Rachel P. Wildman, Priest

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:30 p.m. – Carols of Christmas; 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 2024

(hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church in Canton, 1 Blue Hill River Rd.)

10:30 a.m. – A relaxed Service of Holy Eucharist. Feel free to wear
your pajamas!

Welcome to Trinity!

Merry Christmas to you and welcome! We are delighted to have you with us as we celebrate our Savior's birth, and we hope you will experience the joy and hope of Christmastide.

There are a few things you will need for worship this evening:

- This service leaflet (all the words in ***bold italics*** are congregational responses. Please join in as much or as little as feels comfortable to you!)
- The blue hymnal in your pew. Again, please join in song as much or as little as feels comfortable to you.
- A handheld candle—an usher should give you one as you enter. But, if not, please do go and ask for one.

We LOVE the sounds and movements of children, especially on Christmas Eve. We know that this evening, especially, is one of lots of energy for our young people. So, please rest assured that you, their caregivers, are the only people your active/ talkative children may be bothering! As a way of helping children manage some of their energy this evening, they will be invited during the reading of our Gospel passage to help bring figurines of the nativity story to the creche. They are welcome to bring an adult friend/family member with them if that aids their participation.

To learn more about Trinity, speak to Rev. Rachel after our service this evening or fill out one of our newcomer cards and leave it on the table near the door as you exit. We look forward to getting to know you, learning from you and your experiences, and sharing with you in the joy and hope that come from journeying together along Christ's way of love!

May you know the blessing of Christmas this day and through the coming year.

4:30 p.m. The Carols of Christmas *Please remain seated.*

#79 O little town of Bethlehem (verses 1,2,3 and 5)
#87 Hark! The herald angels sing (verses 1+3)
#89 It came upon the midnight clear (verses 1,2 and 4)
#94 While shepherds watched their flocks by night (all verses)
#105 God rest you merry, gentlemen (verses 1,2 and 4)
#107 Good Christian friends rejoice (all verses)
#102 Once in Royal David's city (verses 1+2, 5+6)

5:00 p.m. The Prelude *Please remain seated.* Gesu Bambino

The Call to Worship (*proclaimed by the presider from the rear of the sanctuary*)

Welcome to all:

happy or sad,
rejoicing or grieving,
seeking or believing.

Welcome to all,
here is good news:

To you is born this day,
in the city of David,
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

His name is Jesus,
which means "Liberator," "Rescuer," "Deliverer."

His life changed the world.

His living presence changes us today.

Lift up your hearts.

Rejoice! Give thanks to God!

Please stand in body and/or spirit.

The opening Acclamation *Remain standing.*

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light.

For unto us a child is born

to us a Son is given.

His name will be called Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,

the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest

and peace to God's people on earth.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Lighting of the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath

The Gospel of Luke tells what happened on the night when Jesus was born:

When the angels had left them, ... the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem, and see what has taken place, which God has made known to us." (Luke 2:15)

In those days, shepherds didn't count for much. But God chose shepherds to welcome and honor Jesus. We light the Christ candle to praise Jesus Christ, who comes to all of us, beginning with the least and the last.

(Light the Christ candle.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you,

hope to follow you,

love to live for you,

wisdom to know you,

and joy to adore you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

The Collect of the Day *Remain standing.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen.***

The Reading *Please be seated.*

Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For 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. His 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.***

Psalm 96 *(Sung by the Choir)*

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *

sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Please stand in body and/or spirit.

The Hymn Before the Gospel #105 (verse 1) (blue hymnal) What child is this?

The Gospel Reading *Remain standing.*

Luke 2:1—20

The Gospel will be read slowly this evening, allowing for those building our manger scene to bring the nativity figurines down the aisle as they are named in the story.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The manger animals are brought down the center aisle and placed inside the manger.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph, Mary, and the donkey are processed and placed inside the manger.

Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Jesus is processed and placed inside the manger.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

The angel is processed and placed at the manger scene.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the

Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The shepherds are processed and placed at the manger scene. In addition, every participant brings a sheep to join the manger. Participants join Rev. Rachel to the side of the manger once they have placed their shepherd/sheep at the manger. When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The 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, Lord Christ.***

The Hymn After the Gospel #105 (verse 2) (blue hymnal) What child is this?

The Homily

The Rev. Rachel Wildman

The Prayers of the People

You may sit, stand, or kneel –whichever best supports your prayer.

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless us, and all those who are entrusted with the ministry of your Love, that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the *light* of this holy night. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict and violence, that they may live in the *peace* of this holy night. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the *hope* of this holy night. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts ... that they may feel the *comfort* of this holy night. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the *joy* and *new birth* of this holy night. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may join with the hosts of heaven in singing the *praises* of this holy night. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of our friend and savior Jesus, who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The Peace *Please stand in body and/or spirit.*

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

Those gathered greet one another with a sign of Christ's Peace.

Announcements *Please be seated.*

Holy Communion

Music During the Offertory *(Sung by the choir)*

The Holly and the Ivy

Please stand in body and/or spirit.

Presentation Hymn #112 (verse 4) *(blue hymnal)*

What can I give him?

The Great Thanksgiving *Remain standing.*

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.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

The Sanctus

Santo, santo, santo,

Mi corazon te adora!

Mi corazon te sabe decir

Santo eres Senor!

Holy, holy, holy

My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you:

Holy are you Lord

For those who wish to kneel, now is an appropriate time.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might steward and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you,

from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

***We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with Mary, the mother of Jesus, with patriarchs & matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior 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 Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ was born for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion for the People of God

Whatever your faith tradition or your age, you are welcome to receive communion at Trinity. If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please come to the altar and cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available; simply ask the priest at the altar rail. For those with ambulatory difficulties, Rev. Rachel is happy to bring Communion to you; ask an usher to let Rev. Rachel know.

Communion Anthem *(sung by the choir)*

The Sans Day Carol

Communion Hymn #93 *(blue hymnal)*

Angels from the realms of glory

Post-Communion Prayer *Please stand in body and/or spirit.*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly father, You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lights are dimmed and candles are lit.

Candlelight Hymn #111 *(blue hymnal)*

Silent Night

The choir will begin with a verse in German, and then all sing verses 1-3.

The Christmas Blessing *Remain standing.*

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the openness of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child,
And may the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you
now and forever. **Amen.**

The lights are restored

Recessional Hymn #100 *(blue hymnal)*

Joy to the World

The Dismissal

Let us go into the world rejoicing at the birth of our Savior.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

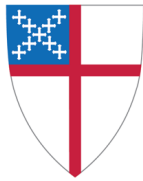
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Postlude

***All are welcome to join us for any of our offerings. Please see the next page for
announcements of our upcoming offerings.***

Announcements

- Upcoming Sunday services:
 - Sunday, December 28th, 9:00am with Godly Play for children/tweens
 - Sunday, January 4th, 9:00am: All ages are invited to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with us. We'll process our wise people to the creche and chalk our doors!
 - Sunday, January 11th, 9:00am: A baptism day – JOY!! Godly Play for children/tweens.
- Monday evenings, January 5th and 12th, 5:30-7:00pm: Adult Formation pot-luck. Exploration of Epiphany (Jan 5th) and make your own Episcopal Rosary beads (Jan 12th).



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PARISH STAFF

THE REVEREND RACHEL P. WILDMAN, PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Ms. JULIE HOUSE, SEMINARIAN INTERN

Ms. LISA MULLIN, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

MR. PHILIP JONES, ORGANIST & MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mx. ALEX SNOW, ASSISTANT ORGANIST

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES!

9:00AM

WITH *GODLY PLAY* DURING THE SERVICE

FOR 4-12 YEAR OLDS ALL BUT THE 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH