



The Jordan River—2022

Trinity Episcopal Church

Offering Companionship along the Way

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Prelude Organ improvisation on tune *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

Opening Hymn 53 Once he came in blessing

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

Candle Lighting Hymn 56 vss. 5, 6 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel

Pastor Blessed be God; Father Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Pastor 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.**

Holy God: Hymnal S 99 Trisagion

Mode 1; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947)

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray together our collect.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading from The Book of Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: The First Song of Isaiah

Plainsong, Mode 1.7

° Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 704 O thou who camest from above

Hereford

Pastor The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to Luke 3:7-18
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Heidi Truax

Moment of silence for reflection

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man. 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He 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.**

Prayers of the People

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Jeffrey and Laura our Bishops, for all lay and ordained ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those on our parish cycle of prayer, Roy and Lin Bickley, Matthew and Eleanor Boyse, Geoffrey Brown and Judy Sherman, and for their families. And for all who live and work in our communities, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, all who suffer and those who have asked for our prayers (*we read from the book and leave time for people to add names;*) for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church (*we read from the book and leave time for people to add names,*) and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all the blessings of our lives especially all we lift up in prayer at this time (*we leave time to lift up our thanksgivings.*) Give us grateful hearts, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

The Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Pastor The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory Hymn 60 Creator of the stars of night *Conditor alme siderum*

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3 Praise God from whom all blessings flow *Old 100th*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing

Holy, holy, holy: Hymnal S 127 Sanctus Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

Lamb of God: Hymnal S 160 Agnus Dei Anaphora Chant; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

Here at Trinity we welcome you to take communion with us if you seek a relationship with Jesus. You may drink from the chalice, or you may intinct your wafer. Or, if you prefer, you may receive communion in one kind only, the wafer. We offer wheat and gluten free wafers, wine and grape juice.

Communion Hymn 59 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

Postcommunion Prayer

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.

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 68 Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Llaangloffan

The Dismissal

Pastor
People

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude Organ improvisation on tune *Llangloffan*

*The Advent greens on the altar this morning are given
to the glory of God.*

Serving Today

Rector: The Rev. Heidi Truax
Music Director: Christine Gevert
Minister of Communion: Mary Anne Carley
Lector: John Lloyd
Epistoler: Bill Jenks
Intercessor: Jim Conzo
Altar Greens: Marian Beers
Altar Guild: Mike Cuoco
Counter: Martha Nesbitt
Greeter/Usher: Jim Conzo and Mike Cuoco
Verger: Geoff Brown

Announcements

- Sat., Dec. 14** 5:00 PM Candlelight Vigil for Sandy Hook families at The White Hart
- Wed., Dec. 18** 4:00 PM Blessing of new home on Rudd Pond Rd., Millerton
- Sunday, Dec. 22** Pageant Sunday!
Special event at Coffee Hour! Bring your knives (up to 3) to be sharpened by Theo O'Neill using professional knife sharpening equipment. No cost.
- Tues., Dec. 24** 4:30 PM Choral Prelude with festive Baroque music, and traditional Carols for choir and instruments. Trinity Choir with guests from Crescendo, Brian Kanner, trumpet, Tricia van Oers, recorders, Christine Gevert, organ
5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service: Familiar Carols and festive descants
- Wed., Dec. 25** 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service: Contemplative Carols with Donna Castaner, soprano and harp, and Christine Gevert, organ
- Sat., Dec. 28** 4:00 PM Crescendo Holiday Concert: Festive Baroque Music by J. S. Bach and his Contemporaries

Sunday, Dec. 29 One service only today
10:30 AM Lessons and Carols: Traditional Readings and Carols. Juan Mesa
(Boston,) organ

Weekly Schedule

Mondays 6:00 - 8:00 PM Crescendo rehearsal
Tuesdays 9:00 AM to 12 Noon Taichi Chuan with Christopher Kiely in Walker Hall
Wednesdays 6:00 PM Women's AA in Walker Hall (in person and online every week)
Thursdays 1:00 PM Bible Explorers: *Advent readings*
Saturdays 9:00 AM to Noon: Bookkeeper, Nancy Hiller is in the office every other Sat.

Music Credits, Permissions, Licenses

Hymns 56, 60, and service music Trisagion S 99 Mode 1; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947), Holy S 127 Sanctus by Calvin Hampton (1938-1984), and Lamb of God S 160 Anaphora Chant; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933) are performed with permission of OneLicense A-730466. All rights reserved.

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Trinity Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Heidi Truax, Rector
The Rev. Felix Rivera, Deacon and Hispanic Missioner

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