

Trinity Episcopal Church

Offering Companionship along the Way



The Fourth Sunday
of Advent

The Trinity Christmas Pageant

December 22, 2024

Prelude Organ improvisation on tune *Veni, veni Emmanuel*

Opening Hymn 56 verses 7, 8 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.

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray together our collect.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Christmas Pageant 2024

God's Love in Chronos and Kairos time

Scene One—The Creation

Hymn 680 verses 5, 6 O God, our help in ages past *St. Anne*



5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;
6. O God our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

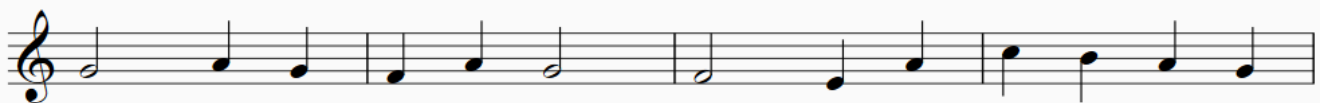


they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen ing day.
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Music: probably by William Croft (1678-1727) Tune: St. Anne
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Scene Two—Noah's Ark

HYMN 677, vss. 1 & 2



God moves in a mys - te - rious way his won - ders to per -
Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines, with nev - er - fail - ing

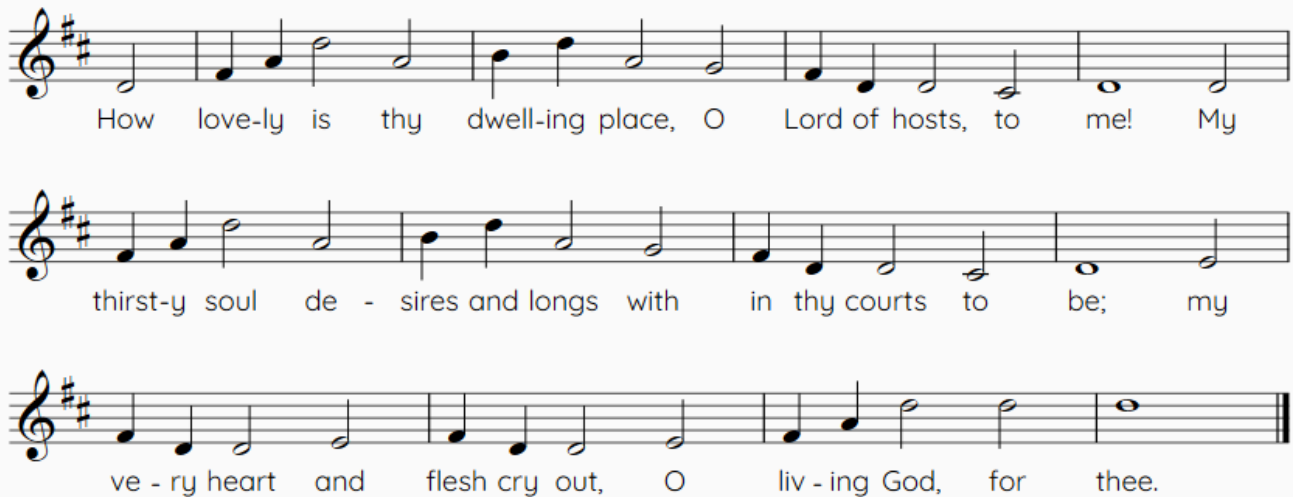


form: he__ plants his foot-steps in the seas, and rides up - on the storm.
skill, he__ treas - ures up his bright de - signs, and works his sov - ereign will.

Words: William Cowper (1731-1800). Public Domain
Music: *Mysterious Way*; Christine Gevert (b. 1964); printed with permission.

Scene Three—Moses and the Commandments

HYMN 517, vs 1



How love-ly is thy dwell-ing place, O Lord of hosts, to me! My
thirst-y soul de - sires and longs with in thy courts to be; my
ve - ry heart and flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.

Words: Paraphrase of Psam 84; sts. 1-2, *The Psalms of David in Meter*, 1650, Carl P. Daw (b. 1944)
Reprinted with permission of RiteSong for Trinity Church Lime Rock on December 22, 2024
Music: *Brother James' Air*, J.L. Macbeth Bain (1840-1925). Public Domain

Scene Four—The Birth of Jesus

Pastor The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to Luke 1:39-45

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

S 247 The Song of Mary (Canticle 15)

Antiphon

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, my spi-rit re - joic-es in God my
Sa - vior, for he has look'd with fa - vor on his low - li ser - vant.____

Music: Cathedral of the Isles, Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928)
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S 247 The Song of Mary

Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928)

Antiphon: see above.

- 2 From this day all generations shall | call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and | holy is his Name.
- 3 He has mercy on | those who fear him
in | every generation.
- 4 He has shown the | strength of his arm;
he has scattered the | proud in their conceit.
- 5 He has cast down the mighty | from their seat,
and has | lifted up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with | good • things;
and the rich he has | sent away empty.
- 7 He has come to the help of his | servant Israel,
for he has remembered his | promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise he made | to our fathers,
to Abraham and his | children for ever.
- 9 Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,
and | to the Holy Ghost;
- 10 As it was in the be- | ginning, is now,
and will be for- | ever. Amen.

Antiphon...

Many thanks to all who have taken part in the pageant this year. Thanks especially go to our actors, our narrator, Roy Bickley, to the Choir and Christine Gevert, who wrote a new tune to Hymn 677. And thank you, everyone who created or provided props and expertise.

Hymn 112 to conclude the Pageant

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim thron - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934).

Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation (*we read from the book and leave time for names to be added.*) Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life (*we leave time for thanksgivings to be offered.*) On our parish cycle of prayer we pray for Mary Anne Carley, The Rev John and Deborah Carter, Lonnie Carter and their families. We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (*We read from the book and leave time for other names to be added.*) Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; for you are the source of light and life. You made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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.

The Fraction

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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 66 Come, thou long expected Jesus

Stuttgart

Postcommunion Prayer

Triune God, in the transformation of bread and wine, let the Incarnate Christ be not only revealed *to* us, but *in* us, so that we may be transformed evermore-so into the Body of Christ. Lord Jesus, make my hands your Hands, my feet your Feet, my heart your Heart. Let me see with your eyes, listen with your ears, speak with your lips, love with your heart, understand with your mind and serve with your Will. By the power of the Spirit, make me your other Self.

Celtic Liturgy

Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us, so be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of the One who made us, the One who loves us, and the One who travels with us, be with you and those you love this day and always. **Amen.**

Henri-Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)

Closing Hymn 76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

The Dismissal

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Organ improvisation on tune *Winchester New*

*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: Mike Cuoco
Intercessor: Susanna Schindler
Altar Guild: Theresa Kenny
Advent Greens: Michelle Sisk
Counter: Barry Anderson
Greeter/Usher: Jim Conzo/Marian Beers
Verger: Geoff Brown

Announcements

This is the last day to tell Pastor Heidi the names of people you would like to have honored or remembered in our Christmas flowers. Either write the names on the list in the Guild Room or send Pastor Heidi an email.

- Sunday, Dec. 22** Today: *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 with descants
There will be a short children's sermon as well one for adults
- Wed., Dec. 25** 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service: Contemplative Eucharist and familiar 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.
David Beers presides, 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: *On hiatus for Christmas and New Year's*
- Saturdays** 9:00 AM to Noon: Bookkeeper, Nancy Hiller is in the office every other Sat.

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Nativity scene to take home, color and cut out. We have crayons here too. Please ask an usher to help you find them. Can you think of some other people or animals to create and add to this nativity scene?

Trinity Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Heidi Truax, Rector

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