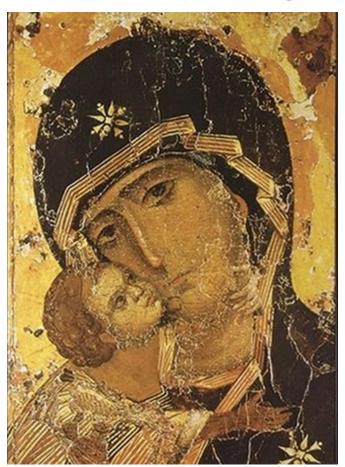
Trinity Buckingham Church

Sharing God's love and serving God's people with Christ in our hearts and God's work through our hands



Pondering with Mary:

A Service of Lessons & Carols
December 29, 2024

10 am

Trinity Episcopal Church
PO Box 387, 2631 Durham Road
Buckingham, PA 18912
Phone: 215-794-7921
Office@trinitybuckingham.org

Welcome to Trinity Church!

Welcome to this gathering place, friend and stranger, saint and sinner. Come, with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning; all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness. May our generous God and our compassionate Savior and the life-giving Spirit bless you this day.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are new to worship in the Episcopal Church, we hope that you will simply enjoy the movement of the service and focus on the message of the Gospel, and not worry too much about what to do or what not to do. In general, we stand to sing, sit to listen and stand or kneel to pray, but please be comfortable. Some people will cross themselves, bow or kneel at different times—this reflects a personal preference and you are encouraged to follow your own.

If you are seeking a church just for today, thank you for celebrating with us and may God be with you as you travel. If you are searching for a new church home and family, know that you are welcome. We wish to greet you today or on your next visit in whatever manner will suit you best. Please leave a visitor's card at the registration desk.

Face-to-face worship during a global health crisis continues to present some challenges. Your health and well-being is our highest priority. If you are not feeling well, we ask that you keep some distance from other worshippers and refrain from sharing the common Cup.

Please help us care for one another by taking your bulletin and any trash with you when you go, and by using the provided cleaning supplies if you visit the restrooms.

Children are always very welcome at worship services. Please pick up a "Sunday Paper" from the ushers and some crayons. Puzzles and quiet toys are available in a basket in the rear of the church. The nursery is not staffed, but you are welcome to visit it with your child. The audio from the sanctuary is transmitted to the nursery.

Sunday School takes place during the first part of the 10 am service from September to early June.

Leading Worship Today

Celebrant: the Very Rev. Dr. Nancy Burton Dilliplane

Lay Associate for Liturgy and Spirituality: Martha Dudich Greeter/Usher: Janet Zimmerman & Natalie Welker-Marx

Lay Readers: Keith & Elisabeth Goggin Acolyte: Joanne Welker

Chalicist: Kay Kinney

Altar Guild: Joanne Welker/Meg Perry **AV:** Jill Unger

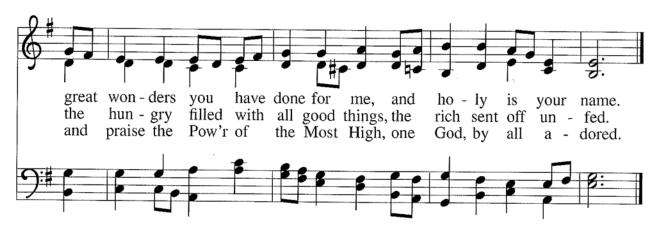
Open/Close: Janet Zimmerman/Joanne Welker

Pondering with Mary:A Service of Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Gathering Hymn





Salutation

One: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Many: And we beheld his glory.

The Acclamation of the Nativity

One: The people who walked in darkness

Many: have seen a great light.
One: For to us a child is born,

Many: to us a Son is given.

One: His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Many: the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Collect:

One: God be with you

Many: And also with you

One: Let us pray

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated for the Lessons

First Lesson Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

With Mary, we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

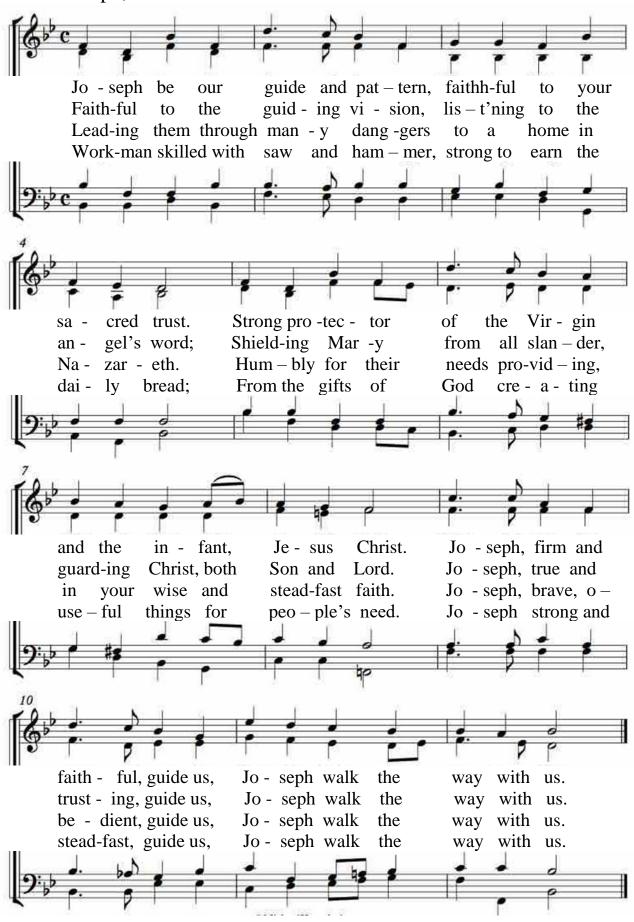
'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

With Mary, we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

Carol Joseph, Be Our Guide and Pattern ~Muriel Newton-White



Meditation

Mary ponders visits from angels. When have you experienced the presence of angels in your life? When have you been an angel for others?

Time of Silent Prayer

A candle is lit

With Mary we pray for all those who are finding life difficult or overwhelming right now...for those who feel misunderstood....for those whose family relationships are under strain....together we pray, **may we be messengers of God's love.**

+ + +

Third Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7

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 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. 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.

With Mary, we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

Fourth Lesson: Hebrews 13: 1-2, 20-21

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

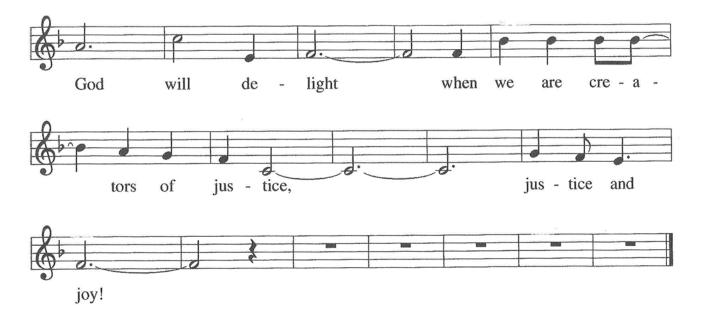
Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

With Mary, we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

Carol For everyone born a place at the table~ Shirley Erena Murray





Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: A PLACE AT THE TABLE 11 10 11 10 and refrain, Lori True

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Meditation:

Mary ponders hospitality and places of refuge. What part of you is longing for welcome and acceptance? Whom are you called to shelter and support?

Time of Silent Prayer:

A candle is lit

With Mary we pray for migrants and refugees...for all who long for a safe place to lay their heads...and for our own ministries of hospitality...our calling to be a welcoming people, seeking and serving Christ in everyone. Together we pray, may we be bearers of God's love.

+ + +

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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.

With Mary, we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts. **Thanks be to God.**

Sixth Lesson: Matthew 2: 2-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

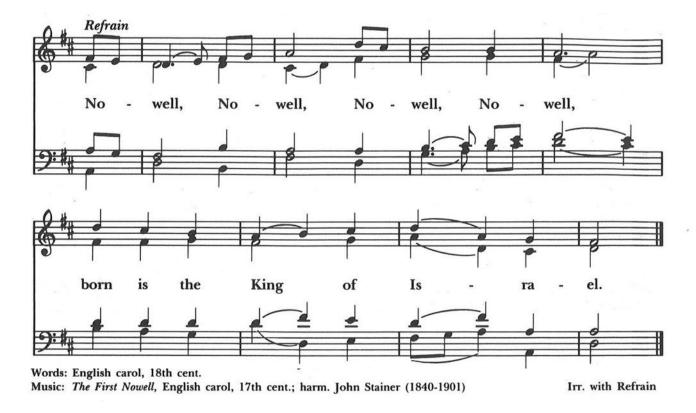
"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

With Mary, we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol The First Nowell





Meditation:

Mary ponders: the visitors, shepherds, angels, magi. What have you sought, that on finding it has left you changed? Who has come as a stranger into your life and been changed by knowing you?

Time of Silent Prayer

A candle is lit

Let us pray for...our own spiritual journeys...for seekers...for those who struggle with difficult questions. Together we pray, may we be bearers of God's love.

+ + +

Seventh Lesson

John 1: 12-14, 16-17

To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth

came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

With Mary, we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

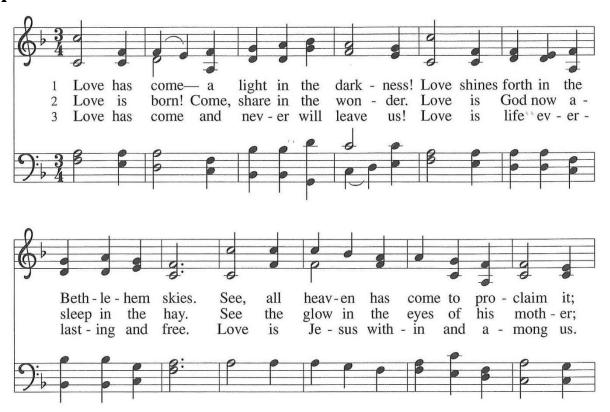
Eighth Lesson 1John 3: 1-3

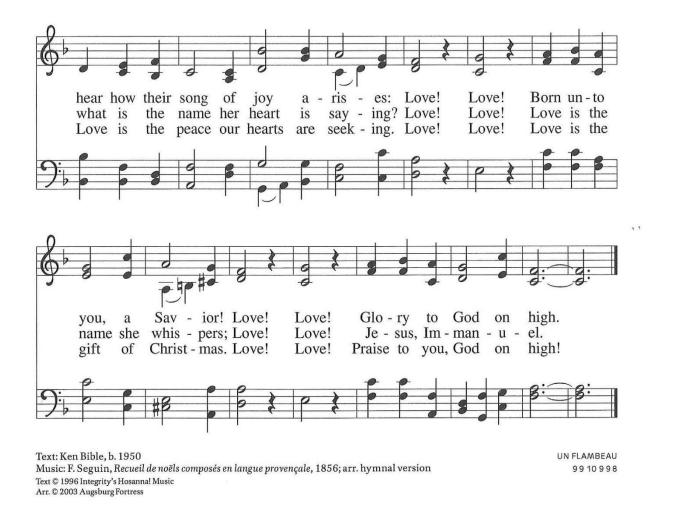
See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

With Mary, we treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

Carol





Meditation:

Mary ponders: newborn love...her baby...God's own Son. Where have you seen and touched God's love in the world? How have you been God's love for another?

Time of Silent Prayer

A candle is lit

With Mary we thank the Holy One for Jesus Christ, our savior. Together we pray, may we be bearers of God's love.

+ + +

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in One God
The Eternal Power of Life and Goodness
The maker of Space and Time
Who was and is and is to come.

We believe in God our Maker Whose love fires the sun Whose word made the world Whose law is the good.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
Child of God and Mary's Child,
Born into Palestine, a prophet of Israel.
Born in a stable, a victim of Empire.
Born to a woman, and made in her image.
Born of the Spirit, the icon of God.
Born as a savior of sinners and victims.
Born as a healer of wounds and diseases.
Born as a teacher of wisdom and justice.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The intimacy of God with creation
The power of God against death
Whose breath lives in all life,
Whose peace gathers the church,
Whose love sends God's people in mission.

We believe in one God,
Our Maker, Savior and Helper:
A trinity of beauty and holiness,
A community of joy.
To this holy and awesome God we give glory and praise, now and forever. Amen.

Praying with Mary

Mary—Miriam of Nazareth—gave birth to Emmanuel—God with us. She is known as *Theotokis*—the God-bearer. We pray that we, too, may bring God's love to birth in the world and bear God's love to all who need it.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mary is known as Our Lady of Good Counsel. With her, we pray for all leaders and policy makers, that their decisions would be made for the common good. And we pray that we, too, may wisely discern our own choices and priorities, always loving God and neighbor above all else.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mary is known as Our Lady of Perpetual Help. With her we pray for those who are most in need—those who are ill, those who work tirelessly to care for them, those who are out of work or who are experiencing economic hardship, those who lack adequate shelter, those who are hungry, and any who struggle alone. And we pray that we may heed your call to come to their aid.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mary is known as Mother of Consolation. With her we pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Bring peace to the hearts of all who mourn, especially to those who move through these holy days for the first time without someone they love. And we pray that we may heed your call to be a consoling and compassionate presence in the world.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mary is known as Our Lady of Guadeloupe. With her we pray for refugees and asylum seekers here and abroad, for all who suffer the consequences of structural racism, economic injustice and inequality. And we pray that we may always be prepared to welcome the immigrant, to stand with the poor, to speak out against injustice in its many forms.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mary is known as Queen of Hope. With her we pray for light to dawn in all. And may we never fail to trust in God and walk the way of Jesus, extending compassionate, practical service and merciful love to all.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer

For what else do we pray? (Please add your prayers aloud or silently) God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Those things, O God, that we, your children have prayed for, give us also the grace to work for; and in the purpose of your love answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Kyrie

Lord God, mighty God, you are the creator of the world.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, you are the Prince of Peace.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, by your power the Word was made flesh and came to dwell among us. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Peace

Offertory In the Bleak Mid-Winter



At God's table, there is food for all who are hungry. If you are seeking God and a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not baptized, and would like to learn more about what this could mean for you please speak to our rector, Nancy. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available, please ask the server if you desire either. You may sip from the chalice, or dip your bread using careful hands. If you prefer to receive only the bread, simply bypass the chalice and return to your seat. If you prefer not to receive bread or wine at this time, place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing, or remain seated and honor Communion in your heart.

The Holy Communion

One: The Lord be with you.Many: And also with you.One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, strong and faithful God. All your works, the height and the depth, echo the silent music of your praise.

In the beginning your Word summoned light, night withdrew, and creation dawned. As ages passed unseen, waters gathered on the face of the earth and life appeared.

When the times at last had ripened and the earth grown full in abundance, you created in your image man and woman, the stewards of all creation.

You gave us breath and speech, that all the living might find a voice to sing your praise, and to celebrate the creation you call good. So now, with all the powers of heaven and earth, we raise the ageless hymn of your glory:

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.

All holy God, how wonderful is the work of your hands! When sin had scarred the world, you entered into covenant to renew the whole creation.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, as a father joyfully welcomes his own, you embraced a people as your own and filled them with longing for a peace that would last and for a justice that would never fail.

Through countless generations your people hungered for the bread of freedom. From them you raised up Jesus, your Son, the living bread, in whom ancient hungers are satisfied. He healed the sick, though he himself would suffer; he offered life to sinners, though death would hunt him down. But with a love stronger than death, he opened wide his arms and surrendered his spirit.

On the night before he met with death, Jesus came to the table with those he loved. He took bread and praised you, God of all creation. He broke the bread among his disciples and said: Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body given for you.

When the supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you, God of all creation. He passed the cup among his disciples and said: take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Gracious God, as we offer you our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we commemorate Jesus, you Son. Death could not bind him, for you raised him up in the Spirit of holiness and exalted him as Lord of creation. Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord, Jesus, come in glory.

Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him. May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread.

Then as last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation, we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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

And now, with the confidence of the Children of God, let us pray:

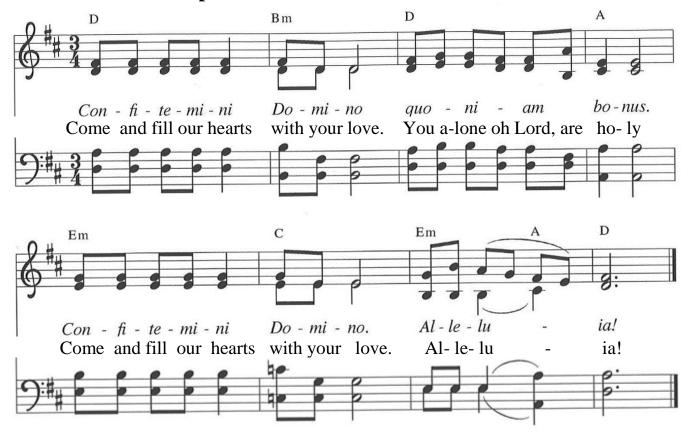
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Communion of the People



Prayer following Communion

Gift-giving God, God of angels and stars; magi and shepherds; promise and hope; journeys and longing; God who calls and sends, blesses and guards, hides and reveals, asks and waits; Ancient Love, that is always new; God of Christmas, God of our hearts; may we bear the Christ to all who need him, and allow his birth in us again. Amen.

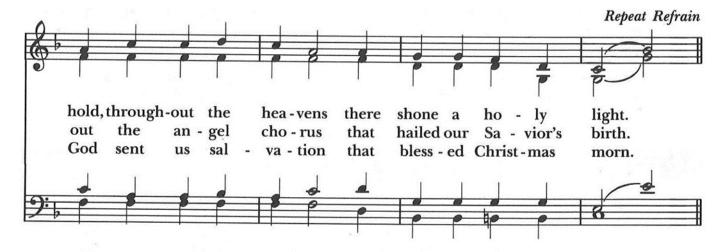
Blessing

May the faith of Mary, the steadfastness of Joseph, the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the magi, the joy of the angels and the peace of the Christ-child be God's gift to you this Christmas. And the blessing of the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and those you love and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: Go tell it on the mountain



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Words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901) Music: Go Tell It on the Mountain, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

76. 76 with Refrain

Dismissal

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, Presiding Bishop
The Right Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez, Bishop
The Very Rev. Dr. Nancy Burton Dilliplane, Rector and Dean
rector@trinitybuckingham.org

Joanne Welker, Rector's Warden joannewelker@aol.com Barry McCabe, Accounting Warden accountingwarden@trinitybuckingham.org

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Jillian Kruze, Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

