

TRINITY BUCKINGHAM CHURCH

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



December 22, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10 am

Trinity Episcopal Church
PO Box 387, 2631 Durham Road
Buckingham, PA 18912
Phone: 215-794-7921
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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 with the usher/greeter.

Face-to-face worship during a global health crisis continues to present some challenges. Your health and well-being is our highest priority. While the CDC has ruled that vaccinated people may safely be indoors without masks, some in our community have not been vaccinated, so, while now optional, masking remains the safest practice.

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 & Preacher: Nancy Dilliplane

Lay Associate for Liturgy and Spirituality & Accompanist: Martha Dudich

Greeter/Usher: Natalie Welker-Marx

Chalice: Marjorie Guidry

Lay Reader: Jeff Kroberger

Intercessor & Psalmist: Bob Kinney

Altar Guild: Meg Perry & Joanne Welker

Acolyte: Sue Snyder

Open/Close: Steve Downs/Peter Oliver

A/V: Jill Unger

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

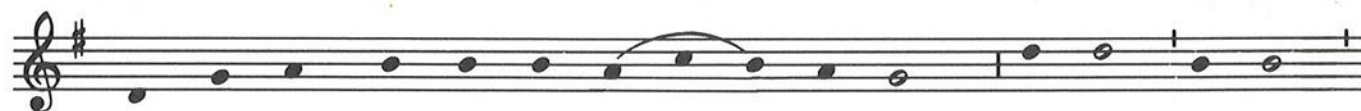
Gathering Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Salutation: *One:* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

Many: You come to you people and set them free.

Collect for Purity:

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 Advent Wreath



The Sunday School children help light the Advent Wreath

4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall
crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

We light the Advent candles praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look outward in love, and look forward in hope.

Living Christ, light of the world, give us the warmth of your love.

Help us to recognize your presence wherever people make peace, show kindness, keep their promises and do what is right. Help us to be those people.

Living Christ, light of the world, give us the warmth of your love.

May the love of Christ shine brightly, at the center of our lives, spreading warmth and light in us and everywhere. **Amen.**

The children leave for Sunday School as we sing:



Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less
sto - ry, May God fill ev - 'ry day we share, And
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE, 9 8 9 8 8 7 8 9; Marty Haugen, b.1950
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Collect

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated for the Lessons

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment on Judah for her unfaithfulness, now speaks of his people's restoration. This passage contains several important biblical themes: God's honoring of the lowliest; the messiah as a descendant of King David, born, like David, in Bethlehem; the king as a good shepherd; the worldwide rule of God's Coming one; and eventually the gift of peace on earth.

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

Response: Canticle 15 ~Rory Cooney

(please sing the Refrain after verses 1 and 4)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

The book of Hebrews is a symbolically and theologically complex sermon written in Greek around the time that the temple was destroyed in 70 c.e. According to its author, Jewish temple rituals have been replaced by the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Christ. We read this passage from Hebrews today alongside Mary's song of praise. Both emphasize the willing acceptance of God's will.

Second Lesson

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.


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

Gospel Anthem:

Please stand, as you are able for the Gospel verse and reading of the Gospel.

David Bjorlin

Harm. by J. Clifford Sever



4. Pre - pare the way with fer - vent love that
tears down walls of hate and re - con - structs a
kind - er world that jus - tice can cre - ate.

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Luke's gospel this fourth Sunday of Advent presents us with Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise, we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up and brings all creation to fulfillment.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-45

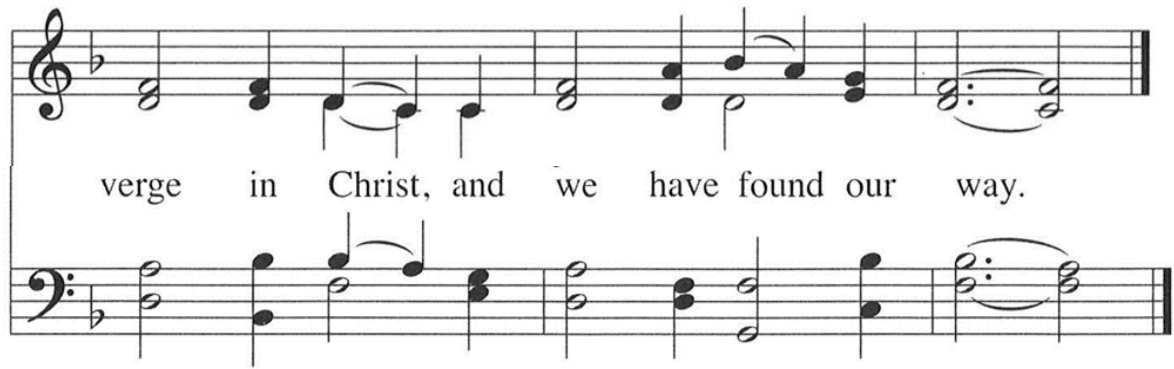
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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."

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

5. Pre - pare the way un - til we reach the
dawn of that new day when all our paths con -



Gospel Reflection:

Nancy Dilliplane

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 for Advent

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love. We pray especially for Sean and Daniel our bishops, Nancy our rector, Sara and Cynthia our office staff, and the ministry of all the baptized.

God of the prophets, hear us and help us!

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence into the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace throughout the earth. We pray especially for Martha and for our choir and hand bell ensemble.

God of the angels, hear us and help us!

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to be pregnant with hope and to bring forth new life for a barren world. We pray for our Sunday School, and for Jillian, and the staff, families and children of the Trinity Buckingham Academy.

God of our mothers, hear us and help us!

God of Zechariah and Joseph, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them. We pray for Joanne and Barry our Wardens, and Natalie, Peter, Janet, Deb, Steve, Sue and Jill, our vestry.

God of our fathers, hear us and help us!

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness, alone and afraid, a light from heaven proclaiming peace. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list, and those whose names are written on our hearts and this morning's prayer cards and for those we name now, silently or aloud...

God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!

God of the magi, give your church gifts, and the will to leave home to find you among the poor. We pray especially for the Code Blue Shelter guests and volunteers, and for the New Britain food pantry and the Clare Project.

God of the magi, hear us and help us!

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless. We pray for all who hold the reins of wealth and power, especially Joe our president, Josh our governor, and our congress, assemblies, councils, courts and schoolboards.

God of the powerless, hear us and help us!

God of Anna and Simeon, give your church a place with all your saints and the courage to follow them in life and in death. We pray for those who have died, especially those we name now either silently or aloud....

God of the saints, hear us and help us!

God our Sovereign, you are always coming into the world. Come to us now, soon, and forever, and let us receive you as the Child of holiness and the Wind of change, through whom, this day, we pray. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Offering of our Common Lives

Offertory Anthem Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence **Trinity Choir & Bells**

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. It is preferred that you consume the bread at the time you receive it and then sip from the chalice. An alcohol-free chalice and gluten-free bread are available, please ask the server if you require either.

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, — Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, — hea - ven and earth are
full, — full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes _____

_____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 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, 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 after Communion

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Increase our hope, dispel our apathy; inspire our imagination, and deepen our commitment until we become signs of the kingdom for which we and others pray. Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, gladden your heart and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, Father the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: Soon and Very Soon ~Andraé Crouch

1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon

soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

1, 2, 3

Dismissal

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

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