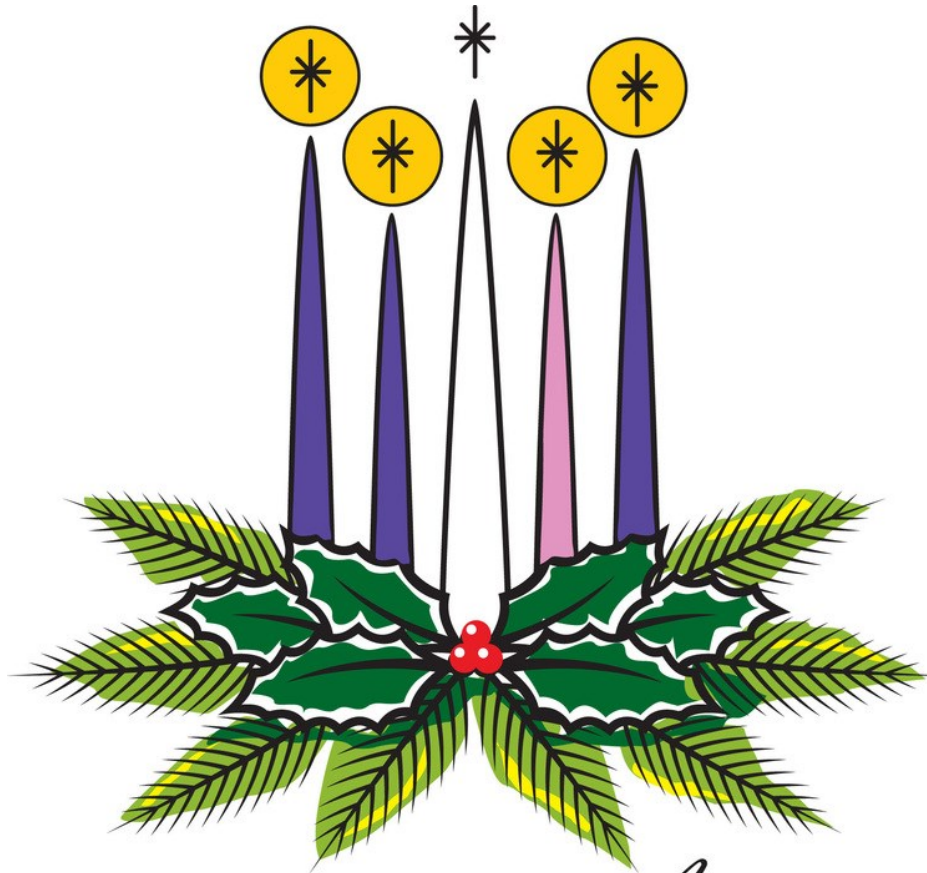


The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

8:00 am

Trinity Episcopal Church



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

THE SEASON IS — Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." Advent begins the church year, starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation for Christmas since at least the last half of the 6th century. Advent is a time for self-examination and asking for forgiveness as the church is preparing for Christ's Second Coming even as it prepares for Christmas. The liturgical color of Advent is blue, the color of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Please check out our website (trinityoldswedes.church). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram by searching for [@TrinityParishDE](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityParishDE); and please tag us in your pictures using [#TrinityParishDE](https://www.instagram.com/TrinityParishDE).

OUR PRAYER LIST

Prayer requests for the bulletin should be sent to the parish office by Wednesday to appear in the Sunday bulletin. The clergy and members of our church are happy to pray with you on the phone if you would like.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Reverend Patricia Downing—Rector
David Simmons—Director of Music
Esther Summers—Reader/Intercessor/Coffee Hour Host
Jerry Lucas—Server

Team 3: Kathryn Jakabcin, Bob Contino, Ray Stiles—Altar Guild
All music is used with permission.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Anthony L. Viceconte.
Flowers arranged by Susan Fullerton.

If you would like to give online to Trinity Parish,
please scan the QR code on the right.



The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional Hymn TH 62

Sleepers, Wake!



1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the shout of ram-part
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her heart with joy - ful
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let saints and an - gels



guards sur-rounds us: "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
hope is spring - ing, she wakes and hur - ries through the night.
sing be - fore you, as harps and cym - bals swell the sound.



Mid - night's peace their cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum-mons
Forth he comes, her Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in
Twelve great pearls, the ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to



clear - ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
truth vic - to - rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
join the im - mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.



Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in sight.
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate Word,
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de - light:



Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and has - ten there,
Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and heed your call
Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to greet our King;



that you the wed - ding feast may share."
to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

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.***

Kyrie

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant 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.***

The Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

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.

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 80:1-7 *Spoken in unison.*

***Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.***

***In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.***

***Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.***

*O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?*

*You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.*

*You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.*

*Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

The Epistle

Hebrews 10:5-10

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.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Gospel *People stand as they are able.*

Luke 1:39-55

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." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Patricia Downing

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.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; in the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Church of the Province of Uganda, and in our diocese for Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Wilmington;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Kevin, our Bishop, and Patty and Marta, our clergy;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Anne Digan, Jim Yandle, Melissa Perry, Marilyn Serrano, Paquito Ocasio, Ofelia Pitalúa, Emiliano Morales, Andy Boutcher, Courtney Thompson, Phil Simmons, Johanna Keresztes, Diana Wood, Wayne Wilson, Tritstina McNeill, Richard Leuliette, Bett Malgieri, Barbara McGinn, Josephine Otwell, Jesús Busto, and Jerry Harrell;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially George Hering;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week: Michael Redmond, Giancarlo Nuñez, and Encelda Morales Sanchez & Fermin Suazo Campos.
Silence

The Concluding Collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

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.

Celebrant

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.

The Peace

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

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

All things come of Thee, O Lord, *and of thine own have we given Thee.*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give him 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:

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

Then the Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People
***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,

People and Celebrant

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.

Post Communion 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.

The Blessing

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

Recessional Hymn TH 56

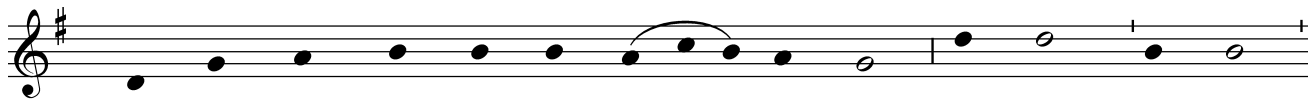
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from



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
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!



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

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Announcements

Trinity Goes A Caroling! Warm up your voice as Trinity's annual caroling fun is coming. TODAY at 4 pm, we are meeting up at Trinity Church to go caroling in the area. We will enjoy hot cocoa following the caroling. We hope you can join us!

Trinity provides meals for Clark House the first Monday of each month and Epiphany House the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Presently, you would be preparing for 10 to 12 people, which includes staff. You are also welcome to join them for the meal. The entire year is open because we have not requested since April of last year because you all are so great about signing up in advance!! Several of our regular meal preparers have moved away this

year and will no longer be signing up so please consider participating in this ministry. Sign up in the lobby or contact Sarah Berninger: berninger59@comcast.net or 302-351-2422.

Stewardship 2025—Joy & Connection—The theme for the 2025 stewardship campaign is joy & connection. The stewardship letters and cards were mailed the week of October 7 and the link for online pledges is available on our website and via the Realm Connect app. Thank you to all who have already submitted their 2025 pledge. If you have not, please consider sending it in or doing so on Realm. Please note, if you have been using the old VANCO site for your donations, please close out that account and open one in Realm. Please contact Bid Hukill and Catherine Dean if you have any questions.

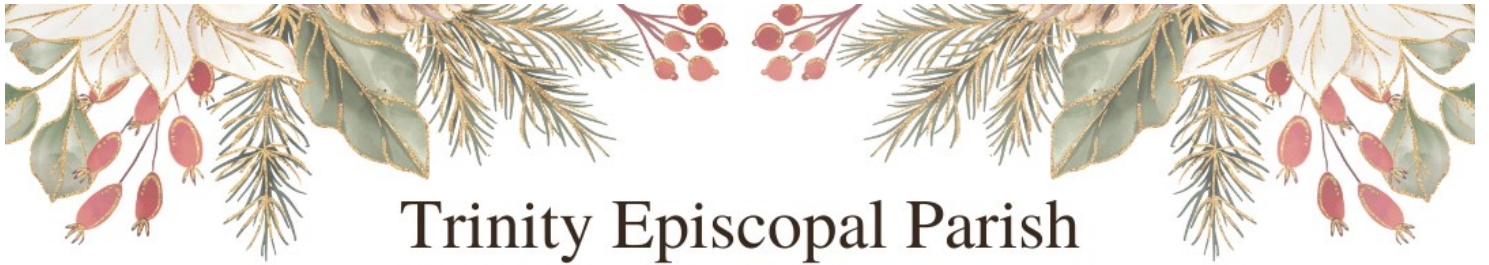
Matching Grant Opportunity— Similar to last year we have an opportunity to qualify for the Jessie Ball duPont Match Grant. The match is based on online donations, using Realm directly or by simply scanning the QR code in the bulletin, received during December, with a maximum match of \$500 for each person. We look forward to your support.

The 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Of Eucharist will feature the traditional re-telling of the nativity story as the children of our congregation, costumed as shepherds, sages, and angels, present Trinity's annual Christmas Pageant during our earliest Christmas Eve Service.

The 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service of Eucharist will feature the full Trinity Choir as well as a brass quartet, violin, flute, handbells, and timpani. The choir will present Steven Ottományi's lush setting of "On Christmas Night," Douglas Wagner's joyous and dramatic "Christmas Gloria," and Stephen Holcomb's transcendent choral setting of Howard Thurman's poignant Christmas poem "The Work Of Christmas." Come early and enjoy the Pre-Service Recital, which begins at 5:45 pm and features Christmas selections for organ, brass, flute, violin, and handbells!

The 8 pm Posada y Eucaristía Nochebuena is our Spanish Christmas Eve service. It starts with the final Posada and transitions into our Christmas Eve worship service. The music is accompanied by the organ and two acoustic guitars.

The 10:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Old Swedes Church is a beautiful, simple candlelight Christmas Eve service with organ, at our historic Old Swedes Church.



Trinity Episcopal Parish

CHRISTMAS *Schedule*

AT TRINITY AND OLD SWEDES CHURCH

December 24th

4:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Pageant

5:45 pm Pre-Service Recital

6:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Choir and Brass

8:00 pm Posada y Eucaristía Nochebuena

10:30 pm Candlelight Holy Eucharist at Old Swedes Church

December 25th

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist - Bilingual

