

***THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT***



**The Way of the Cradle  
&  
Holy Eucharist at 10:00am**

**14 December 2025**

***Trinity Episcopal Church  
Wilmington, Delaware  
in  
The Episcopal Diocese of Delaware***

# Welcome!!!

## We are Glad you are Here

### Lectionary Cartoon Inserts for Children

*(available on the low table at the rear of the nave)*

**The Sunday Paper Junior**, an 8½ x 14” double-sided sheet, folded into a leaflet form serves as a children’s bulletin for preschool through third or fourth grade, features one lesson (usually the Holy Gospel) in big, bold artwork, with a simple story line, a note to parents, and an activity page designed to stir children’s imagination requiring a pencil or crayon.

**The Sunday Paper**, a single side, 8½ x 14” sheet that appeals to intermediate through junior high school students, presents one lesson (usually the Holy Gospel) as a two-line cartoon. The Old Testament Reading, the Epistle and the Psalm are presented as single vignettes.

*“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”* .....Mark 9.37

### Find Us on Social Media

Please check out our website (<https://TrinityOldSwedes.church>). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram by searching for @TrinityParishDE; and please tag us in your pictures using #TrinityParishDE.

### ***THE WAY OF THE CRADLE: MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT***

**The Way of the Cradle** closely follows the form of the Way of the Cross during the season of Lent and Holy Week. The meditations are intended to provide a means of reflection during Advent, the other season of preparation.

## OREMUS

Week of Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*This list combines all the prayer and thanksgiving requests we have received for this week, along with “cycles” of prayer for the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of Delaware (The Episcopal Church in Delaware). We invite you to have your prayer requests and thanksgivings listed by calling the Parish Office at 302.652.8605 or sending an email to [office@TrinityParishDE.org](mailto:office@TrinityParishDE.org) or contacting Dr Marta at [Marta@TrinityParishDE.org](mailto:Marta@TrinityParishDE.org) or Fr Kirtley at [FrKirtley@TrinityParishDE.org](mailto:FrKirtley@TrinityParishDE.org). Names will remain on the list for a period of two weeks. Should you wish for a name to be renewed, please contact the Parish Office with a status update.*

*In addition to being listed here, those who are sick or have special needs will be mentioned by Christian name in the Prayers of the People at each liturgical service. Anyone who has died this week will be remembered by using their full name.*

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**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

**For the Church:** Kevin our Bishop Diocesan, Sean our Presiding Bishop and Primate, Sarah the Archbishop–designate of Canterbury, the Primates of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** All Saints’ Church, Rehoboth Beach, and St. George’s Chapel, Harbeson, Shelley their Rector and Judith, Assistant Priest.

**Rector Search Committee, Trinity Forward:** Greg, Rachel, Betsy, Steve, Brian, Doug, Angelica, Toni.

**Spiritual Relationship:** Our Future Christian Childcare Center at Old Swedes.

**Ministry Partners:** Old Swedes Foundation, First State National Historical Park.

**For Government Leaders:** Donald our President; Matt our Governor; John our Mayor.

**For Health and Healing:** Jim, Andy, Phil, Tritstina, Jack, Vanessa, Mercedes, Diane, Serena, Greg, Marsha, Judy, Daisy, Florence, Chuck, Deidra, Jack, Gordon, Ruth, Sam, Dan, Stan, John, Irma

**For Anniversary of their Birth:** Austin, Valerie, Leslie, Frances, Dulce, Michael, Betty Jane, Amelia, Evonn, Sarai

**For those celebrating the Anniversary of their Marriage:** Ryan & Jessica

**For the Repose of the Soul on the Anniversary of their Year’s Mind:**

**For those who have Died:**



### ***Altar Flowers***

The Altar flowers today are given to the Greater Glory of God and in loving memory of Carol Thomas Kalp, Robert A. Kalp and Linda Simile Thomas.

*WELCOME TO TRINITY EPISCOPAL PARISH (TRINITY CHURCH AND OLD SWEDES CHURCH). We are glad you are here!!! We are a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. The Episcopal Church welcomes all who worship Jesus Christ, in 106 dioceses and one mission area in 22 nations or territories. The Episcopal Church is one of 42 member provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion.*

*This leaflet is your guide to the liturgy and contains all the material needed for this service.*

*The people's responses are in bold.*

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY.

### Clarinet & Piano Prelude *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came Down*

Tune: *Gabriel's Message*, a Basque Carol

Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

### Processional Hymn *Hark! The Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

*Please stand, as able; sung by all*

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816);  
harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950

## THE LITURGY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The custom of lighting candles on a decorated wreath comes to us from the Lutheran Church in Scandinavia. Like the Christmas tree, the Advent wreath has its origins in pre-Christian festivals of light which celebrated the winter solstice. In recent years its use has become widespread in most Christian churches in the West as a reminder of our time of preparation for the coming of Christ, both at Bethlehem and at the end of the world.*

*The Advent Wreath has four red or blue candles in a ring around a white or gold candle. Alternatively, there may be three purple candles, reflecting the liturgical color for Advent, with a pink candle for the Third Sunday, when rose-pink vestments are traditionally worn. The royal colors of purple and blue are in honor of Christ's kingship.*

*Each Sunday of Advent a new candle is lit with prayer, until all four are lit on the Sunday before Christmas. A fifth candle in the center of the wreath is lit for Christmas. This Christ candle is lit until the Epiphany, when the wreath is put away.*

### Advent's Holy Light – JOY

Joel Raney

*The Choir sings*

As we watch for the dawn of a brighter day,  
A candle of hope lights the way.

As we look for the signs of the promised birth,  
Of a Savior who brings heaven to earth.

*Choir and Congregation sing REFRAIN*  
*(on cue)*

Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.

Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -

nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

*The first, second and third candles are lit.*

*Reader* Today the candle representing Joy joins the candles of Hope and Peace. As we light this third candle, let the joy of the season fill our hearts. May we find joy in simple moments, and may that joy bring a sense of peace and well being into our lives..

*People* When we think of the countless blessings that fill our lives  
**Our hearts are filled with joy.**

*Reader* For the warmth of relationships and the bonds we share with family and friends

*People* **Our hearts are filled with joy.**

*Reader* When we pause to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature

*People* **Our hearts are filled with joy.**

For the giving and receiving of simple acts of kindness

*People* **Our hearts are filled with joy.**

*Celebrant* Gracious Creator, teach us to find joy not only in triumphs but also in the simple moments of everyday grace. Fill us with joy that surpasses circumstance, anchored in the unchanging truth of your love. Help us share this joy with others and may joy and laughter be a constant companion on our journey through life. **Amen.**

*Choir and Congregation sing REFRAIN*

(on cue)

Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.

Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -

nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

*The Choir sings*  
Advent's holy light.

## THE WAY OF THE CRADLE

**A Bidding Prayer** *remain standing, as able*

*The Celebrant then says*

**D**EAR PEOPLE OF GOD: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Holy Scripture, the prophets, and the angels, and to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger – a cradle of love.

Let us hear and heed the story of God’s loving purpose for us from the time of our creation until the glorious redemption brought to us by the Child Jesus. Let us walk the way to the cradle of Bethlehem and meditate on the mighty acts of God.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the world, for peace and justice on earth, for the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, those who mourn, the lonely and those unloved, and for all those who do not know the love of Jesus Christ. Let us especially pray for ourselves that we may find and be found by God at this time of Advent.

*Silence is kept for a space.*

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.

*Celebrant and People*

**O**UR 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. Amen.**

V. Savior of the nations, come!

R. **Virgin’s son, make here your home.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**G**OD OF ALL HOPE AND JOY, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling place prepared for himself, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*As the procession goes to the first station, the following verse is sung by all.*

## Hymn

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*sung by all*

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715;  
adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

*During the procession to Stations around the nave, the congregation is encouraged to do what is most comfortable: stand or sit.*

## FIRST STATION

### In the beginning was the Word

V. Savior of the nations, come!

R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**I**N THE BEGINNING was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Christ was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Christ, and without Christ was not anything made. In Christ was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Then God said let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. So they created them, male and female; in their own image they created them and it was very good.

V. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.

R. **In the beginning all things were created good.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**O**MERCIFUL CREATOR, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness. **Amen.**

### **Musical Meditation**

## SECOND STATION

### **We turned against you and betrayed your trust**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**N**OW THE SERPENT was more subtle than any other wild creature that God made. The man and the woman were tempted by the serpent and they ate of the fruit from the forbidden tree. Their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked and they were afraid. But God still loved them and made garments of skins, and clothed them.

- V. Adam and Eve sinned against God,  
R. **But God still loved them and took care of them.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, who is a strong tower to all who put their trust in you, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth obey: Be now and ever more our defense, and help us to know and feel that the only Name under heaven given for health and salvation is your name. **Amen.**

### ***Musical Meditation***

## THIRD STATION

### **God calls Abraham and Sarah to be the ancestors of many nations**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**G**OD TOLD ABRAHAM to leave his country and his tribe and to go to a new land. God made a covenant with him and his wife Sarah to be the ancestors of many nations. God said their offspring would number more than the stars in the sky. But Abraham and Sarah laughed for he was one hundred years old and she was ninety. God said, "Is anything too hard for me?" God blessed them and in the course of time Sarah bore a son and they named him Isaac which means "he laughs". A great nation and a great people descended from the covenant of God with Abraham and Sarah.

- V. Stay with us, O God, when life seems impossible.  
R. **May we always remember that nothing is too hard for you.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**O** GOD, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in the darkness for the Godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from false choices, and in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***Musical Meditation***

**FOURTH STATION**

**Abraham and Sarah's descendants turned against God**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**T**HE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH refused to serve God. They mocked God and did not keep the commandments. Time and time again God sent prophets to call them to repent of their evil ways. Still they turned away from God, but God did not forget them. God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah and said, "The time is coming when I will make a new covenant with the people. I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people."

- V. A new covenant God has written in our hearts.  
R. **Let us repent and obey God's word.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**A**Lmighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***Musical Meditation***

**FIFTH STATION**

**His name shall be Emmanuel**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**S**TILL THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE did not turn to God. So God spoke to the prophet Isaiah and told him to proclaim to all the people who walked in darkness that they would soon see a great light. A young woman would conceive and bear a son. A child will be born, a son given. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Prince of Peace. He would be Emmanuel – God with us.

- V. O come, O come Emmanuel,  
R. **And by your life save your people.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**M**ERCIFUL GOD, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

### ***Musical Meditation***

#### **SIXTH STATION**

**There was a priest named Zechariah**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**T**HERE WAS A PRIEST NAMED ZECHARIAH and his wife's name was Elizabeth. They both lived good lives in the sight of God but they had no children. Time had passed and now they were advanced in years. One day in the temple, Gabriel, an angel of God, came to Zechariah and said that Elizabeth would bear him a son and they would call his name John. He would be the one sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah. Zechariah questioned Gabriel and doubted his message. Gabriel commanded that Zechariah remain silent, until the day John was born.

- V. Come, Holy angels, come.  
R. **Bring God's word to my trembling heart.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**E**VERLASTING GOD, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### ***Musical Meditation***

## SEVENTH STATION

### Elizabeth becomes pregnant

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**Z** ECHARIAH RETURNED HOME FROM THE TEMPLE and Elizabeth knew something important had just happened. She felt the Spirit of God upon her and she felt deep within the beginning of new life. She did not leave her house for five months. Many people in the village had laughed at her and mocked her because she was barren. She wanted to wait until there could be no doubt about her good news.

- V. God had taken away her disgrace.  
R. **God answered her prayers and healed her wounds.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**G** RACIOUS GOD, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### *Musical Meditation*

## EIGHTH STATION

### Joseph and Mary are betrothed

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**S** INCE THEY WERE CHILDREN, Mary and Joseph knew that one day they would be husband and wife. It was now Joseph's eighteenth birthday. He had served his time as an apprentice carpenter and had saved his money. Would it be enough? As Joseph and his father met with Mary's father to talk about the betrothal contract, Mary and her mother were in another room straining to hear their every word. An agreement was reached! The contracts were signed and Mary and Joseph were practically married, but, it would be another long year of waiting before their wedding day. Their minds were filled only with thoughts of their new life together.

- V. A man and a woman shall leave their parents.  
R. **They are united as one and become a new family.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**E**TERNAL GOD, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of grace: Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another may be so transformed by your love, that your will be done, now and forever. **Amen.**

### ***Musical Meditation***

#### **NINTH STATION**

##### **Gabriel speaks to Mary**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**O**NE NIGHT WHEN MARY WAS ALONE, she suddenly felt the presence of someone in the room with her. As she turned around she saw a light and then an angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He is the Messiah." Mary was confused and afraid but she answered, "I am God's servant; may it happen to me as you have said."

- V. How can such a thing happen?  
R. **With God nothing is impossible.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**G**OD OF GRACE, grant that Mary's obedience may inspire us to obey your will and receive Jesus Christ into our hearts, and may we never neglect the strange and stirring gentleness of your Holy Spirit as you move among us and call us to new things. **Amen.**

### ***Musical Meditation***

#### **TENTH STATION**

##### **An angel visits Joseph**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**J**OSEPH JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. When Mary told him she was pregnant, he just could not believe it. But this was Mary. It had to be true. His sleep was troubled. He did not want to hurt her but there was The Law. What must he do? One restless night he felt a presence in the room. When he looked up from his bed there was a light and then an angel said to him, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, her child is Emmanuel! God with us! It was true. It was just as Mary had said. Joseph did what the angel told him to do.

V. Help us to listen to those you send to us.

R. **May we too hear and obey your commands.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**O** GOD, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the earthly father of your Incarnate Son and the spouse of his Virgin Mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### ***Musical Meditation***

#### **ELEVENTH STATION**

#### **Mary hurries to see Elizabeth**

V. Savior of the nations, come!

R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**G**ABRIEL TOLD MARY that Elizabeth, one of her oldest relatives who had never had children, now was pregnant. Mary had to go to her. Mary had to speak with Elizabeth. But when she arrived it was Elizabeth who had to speak to her! It was Elizabeth who wanted to know everything. It was Elizabeth who asked so many questions. It was Elizabeth, who in the ancient ways among women, bowed to Mary and honored her. They hugged one another and wept.

V. My soul magnifies the Lord.

R. **My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**E**VER LOVING GOD, by your grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and hailed her as the mother of your Son: Fill us with your grace, that we may acclaim her Son as our Savior and rejoice in our fellowship with Him. **Amen.**

## ***Musical Meditation***

### **TWELFTH STATION**

#### **Mary waits**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**A**FTER MARY returned from her visit with Elizabeth and Zechariah, the days seemed to drag by. Simple tasks such as reaching up to get something from a shelf or trying to pick up something off the floor became more and more difficult. She had to learn new ways to sit, to walk, and to stand. There were days that just never seemed to end. Waiting is hard for a young woman about to become a mother.

- V. Come, O come, Emmanuel.  
R. **Come to our waiting hearts.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**G**OD OF HOPE, come to us. God of love, come to us. Come, O come, Emmanuel, you are the way, the truth, and the life; you are the true vine and bread of life. Come, living Savior, come to your world which waits for you. **Amen.**

## ***Musical Meditation***

### **THIRTEENTH STATION**

#### **A decree went out from Caesar Augustus**

- V. Savior of the nations, come!  
R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**J**OSEPH had heard the story of King David, his kinsman, and David's sin of numbering the people of Israel in a census. This story of warning had been told for generations among his people, but now they were a conquered nation and this census was ordered by their enemy, the cruel Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus. Although Joseph knew that Mary's time was near, the new law commanded them to leave Nazareth and make the long journey to Bethlehem to be counted.

- V. Save your people and bless our inheritance;  
R. **Govern and uphold us now and always.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**O** GOD, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go and who traveled with Mary and Joseph on the journey to Bethlehem: Preserve us who travel through this life; surround us with your loving care; protect us from every danger; and bring us home to your loving arms at our journey's end. **Amen.**

### ***Musical Meditation***

#### **FOURTEENTH STATION**

#### **There was no place for them**

V. Savior of the nations, come!

R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

**T**HE LAST WEEKS had been hard for Mary and Joseph. Sleep had only been in bits and pieces. It was almost time for the baby to be born and preparations had to be made for the trip to Bethlehem. Everything seemed to be happening at once! When they arrived in Bethlehem, the Inn Keeper said those paralyzing words, "No room in the inn!" No room, no bed, no place for them to rest. Joseph wanted to look elsewhere but Mary knew she had to stop, "Ask for the stable Joseph. Maybe we can rest there tonight."

V. Keep us in your watchful eye;

R. **Hide us under the shadows of your wings.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**G**OD OF THE PRESENT MOMENT, God who stills the storms and soothes the frantic heart; bring us hope and strength as we wait in uncertainty of that which lies ahead, and give us courage to endure that which cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are our God and we need you. **Amen.**

### ***Musical Meditation***

*Please sit for a period of silent reflection.*

#### **Concluding Prayers before the Altar**

V. Savior of the nations, come!

R. **Virgin's son, make here your home.**

V. Marvel now, both heaven and earth,

R. **That our God chose such a birth.**

LOVE IS THE MEANING of this season of waiting. Love is the meaning of the cradle of Bethlehem.

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**G**OD IN TRINITY, CREATOR, SAVIOR, GIVER OF LIFE AND TRUTH, reveal the possibilities within us that we may obtain to the fullness of our humanity. As we are glad when the dawn reveals the world to us, innocent and fresh, so may we discover the infant in the manger, and in delight be ready to start anew. **Amen.**

V. With God nothing is impossible!

R. **Thanks be to God.**

*All now stand, as able, and sing the following*

**Hymn**

*Blessed Be The God Of Israel*



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Words: Carl P. Daw (b. 1944), based on Luke 1.68-79  
Music: *Forest Green*, English folk tune

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

*Please be seated.*

## Offertory Sentence

*An Offering of money is collected for the work of mission and ministry OR [you may scan the QR Code below:](#)*

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



## Offertory Anthem *All Earth Is Hopeful (Toda La Tierra)*

Words and Music: Alberto Taulé

Arrangement: James E. Bobb

Translation: Madeleine F. Marshall

Toda la tierra espera al Salvador;  
y el surco abierto a la obra del Señor:  
es el mundo que lucha por la libertad,  
reclama justicia y busca la verdad.

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set everybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him "God with us, " our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

*Please stand, as able, as the alms are brought forward.*

## Musical Meditation at Presentation

## Sursum Corda

*The people standing, as able. The Celebrant says,*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

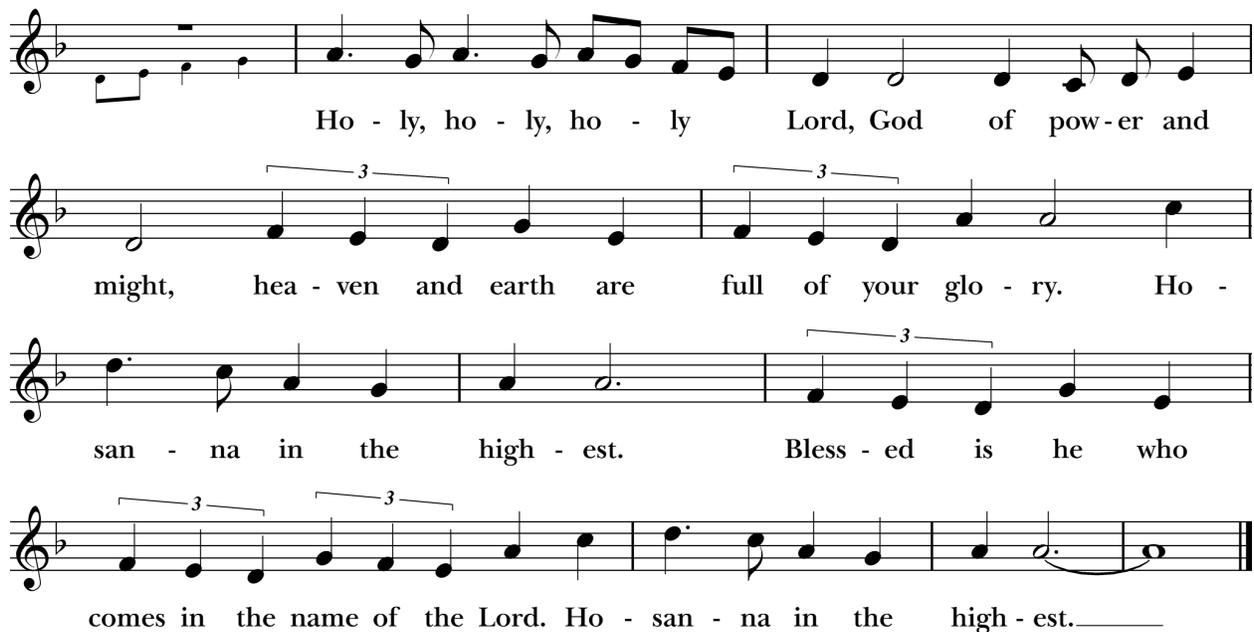
*Then, the Celebrant proceeds*

**W**E 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, male and female, 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:

**Sanctus & Benedictus qui venit** *remain standing, as able; sung by all*

Setting by Robert Powell



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. \_\_\_\_\_

**Eucharistic Prayer** *remain standing, as able*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

**G**LORY 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 the 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 the 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 IN 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, and 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.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

**The Lord's Prayer** *remain standing, as able; said by all*

*The Celebrant says*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**O**UR 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** *remain standing, as able*

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The Celebrant then says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

**Fraction Anthem** *remain standing, as able; sung by all*

Setting: Carl Haywood

Who - ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and  
 who - ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.

**The Invitation** *remain standing, as able*

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy Things for Holy People.

**The Communion of the People**

*The Episcopal Church invites all Christians of any age to the Lord's Table. To receive the consecrated Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the consecrated Wine, please assist the chalice as it is offered, by gently guiding the base with your hand to allow the rim to reach your lips; or, having consumed the Bread, you may return to your seat. We believe Christ fully present in either element. If you are not baptized, or if you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, you may ask for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms).*

*Gluten-free wafers are available at the Altar rail. Please speak to the priest when you come forward for Communion.*

# Communion Clarinet and Piano Meditation

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Tune: *Jefferson, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835*

Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

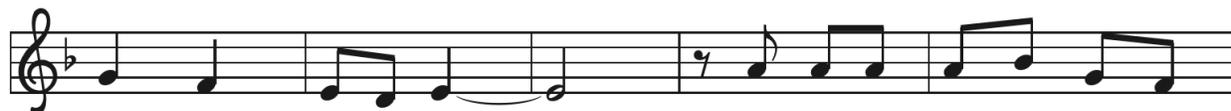
## Communion Hymn

*There Is A Longing In Our Hearts*

*sung by all*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Words: Anne Quigley (b. 1955)  
Music: Longing, Anne Quigley

*A period of silent prayer is kept.*

**Prayer after Communion** *standing, as able; said by all*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**G**OD OF ABUNDANCE, **you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Prayer for the Calling of a Rector**

*Celebrant and People*

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, **giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; and so guide the mind of the Discernment Team, Trinity Forward, who shall recommend to the Vestry of Trinity Parish, a Rector for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Announcement** – Camp Arrowhead 2026

## **THE SENDING FORTH**

**Advent Blessing** *remain standing, as able*

*The Celebrant gives the blessing*

**C**HRIST THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

## People, Look East

*remain standing, as able; sung by all*



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Music: *Besançon*, French carol; arr. Barry Rose (b. 1934)

## Dismissal *remain standing, as able*

*The Celebrant dismisses the people*

As we await the coming Savior,  
Go in beauty to love and enjoy the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Organ Postlude *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came Down*

Tune: *Gabriel's Message*, a Basque Carol

Setting: by Mark Sedio



*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*

***Come, See...Go and Tell***

### **Liturgical Participants**

Fr Kirtley Yearwood SR — Presider  
David Simmons — Organist and Choir Director  
Ron Stach — clarinet  
Oliver, Austin, CC & Breanne Staley-Ashe — Advent Wreath Candle Leaders  
Eleanor, Leslie & Doug McQuirter — Way of the Cradle Readers  
Kennard Brown — Audiovisual  
Anne Martens — Usher  
Sarah Berninger — Eucharistic Minister  
Fred Thomas — Flower Arrangers Guild  
Team 2: Toni Spille, Sarah Berninger, Rachel Schneiders — Altar Guild  
Brian Embriani, Janet Gordon — Fellowship Hosts

### **Virtual Trinity**

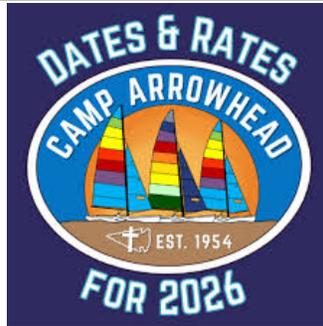
Maureen Lyons — Greeter

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### ***Special Thanks to those who colored the images by Betty Zander***

- I — Oliver and Austin Staley-Ashe
- II — Dulce Tlaseca-Zúñiga
- III — Eleanor McQuirter
- IV — Martinez
- V — Oliver and Austin Staley-Ashe
- VI — Giovanni Zamudio
- VII — Claudia Zamudio
- VIII — Anna DeJesus
- IX — Niki Ingram
- X — Aniela Meinhaldt
- XI — Eleanor McQuirter
- XII — Daphne Arrindell
- XIII — Doug Hoffman
- XIV — Martinez

## PARISH NOTES



**Darlene Calton, Executive Director of Camp Arrowhead, is at Trinity Church today to speak with parents and children about Summer Camp 2026 during the gingerbread reception between the 10.00am and 12.00noon Worship Services.**

Camp Arrowhead offers a unique opportunity for children to experience the joy of outdoor living in a faith-based environment.

Summer Camp registration opened on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Summer 2026 programs include:

Day Camp – 4 & 5 Day Sessions throughout the summer: Grades 3 – 4;

Taste of Camp – 4 Night Introduction to Overnight Camp: Grades 2 – 3;

Overnight Camp – One and Two Week Sessions:

Homestead: Grades 3 – 6

Pioneer: Grades 7 – 9

Pathfinder: Grades 10 – 11

A Five-Night Mini Camp for Homestead and Pioneer

Registration and Information: [www.camparrowhead.net](http://www.camparrowhead.net) or 302.645.5348

Scholarships Available: Please speak with Fr Kirtley

Brochures on *Trinity in Motion* table in Foyer at Trinity Church

Camp Arrowhead is an essential ministry of The Episcopal Church in Delaware



**Christmas Memorials:** Many parishioners remember loved ones during the Christmas season by donating funds to use in decorating the churches and chapel both indoors and out. If you would like to support this effort, please plan to donate a minimum of \$35 (cash, check, or Realm) with a deadline of Tuesday, December 16. If you wish to donate online, go to: <https://onrealm.org/TrinityOldSwedes/give/now>

Please include a list of those you are memorializing. If you are using Realm, please send an email list to [office@trinityparish.org](mailto:office@trinityparish.org). If you have questions, please call Ashlin Bray at 302-658-5821. Thank you.

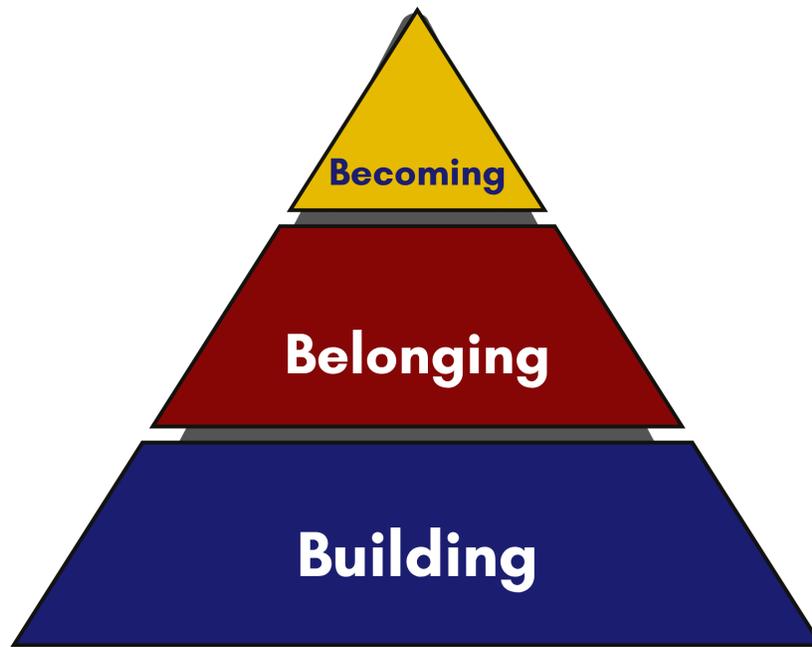
## *Red Wagon Ministry*



For the month of December, we are collecting **ground coffee, shelf stable creamer, sugar and sugar substitute, and shelf stable baked goods** for distribution to Friendship House for their winter hospitality program. The Children bring the Red Wagon with your generous donations to the Altar to be blessed during the Offertory Procession on Sundays! For more information, please contact Sarah Berninger (berninger59@comcast.net). Thank you.



**5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CHORAL EUCHARIST WITH CHRISTMAS TABLEAU AT TRINITY CHURCH** WILL BE PRECEDED BY **PRE-SERVICE RECITAL, BEGINNING AT 4:40PM**, featuring violin, flute, brass quartet, timpani, piano, organ, as well as our own handbell ensemble, The Trinity Ringers. During the service, the Trinity Choir will present Elaine Hagenberg's ethereal and tender musical setting of Martin Luther's 1524 text "All Praise To Thee," Douglas Wagner's joyous and dramatic "Christmas Gloria," and his transcendent choral setting of the classic Irish "Wexford Carol."



## TRINITY IN ACTION



### Trinity Episcopal Parish

1108 N Adams Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: 302-652-8605

Email: [office@trinityparishde.org](mailto:office@trinityparishde.org)

Website: [trinityoldswedes.church](http://trinityoldswedes.church)

#### Clergy

The Right Reverend Kevin S. Brown — XI Bishop Diocesan

The Reverend Dr. Kirtley Yearwood SR—Interim Rector

The Reverend Dr. Marta Illueca—Associate Rector

#### Staff

David Simmons – Director of Music

Aniela Meinhardt – Office Manager

Bob Kahn – Maintenance Manager

Alyse Calder – Sunday School Coordinator

Jordan Pecou – Sexton

John Zajackowski – Sexton

Claudia Zamudio – Sunday School Assistant

Dulce Tlaseca-Zúñiga – Sunday School Assistant

#### Vestry

Elizabeth Hukill (Senior Warden), Kimberly Denhardt (Junior Warden)

Brenda Demanczyk, Robert Emeritz (Secretary), James Maxwell – 2026 Class

Steven Dooley, Janet Gordon, Ray Stiles – 2027 Class

Alberto Martinez, Juan Rodriguez, Isabel Zúñiga Sandoval – 2028 Class

Ann Hamilton (Treasurer)

Kathryn Jakabcin, Esq. (Chancellor)