

# THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

December 24, 2024

7:00 p.m.



## WELCOME TO OUR TRINITY CHURCH FAMILY!

*FOLLOWING JESUS. BUILDING COMMUNITY. LOVE THROUGH SERVICE.*

*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont*

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**The Rev. Sarah C. Ginolfi, Rector**

**The Rev. Liz Skaleski, Deacon**

# THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

## Choral and Instrumental Prelude

*Psallite Unigenito*

*From Bethlehem, Fair City (Zu Bethlehem Geboren)*

Michael Praetorius

German-Austrian carol

choral setting by Richard Proulx

organ setting by Helmut Walcha

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*Geistliches Wiegenlied (Cradle Song of the Virgin)*

Polish carol; arr. David Willcocks

Johannes Brahms

David Rugger, baritone; Daisy Chew, clarinet

*The Virgin's Slumber Song*

*Lo, How a Rose is Growing*

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*

Max Reger

German carol; arr. Joel Martinson

John Goss; arr. David Willcocks

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## The Word of God

*Posture Note: In the Episcopal Church, we worship with our whole being. We tend to stand to sing and praise God, sit to hear lessons and learn (although we stand for the Gospel), and kneel or stand to pray. Many kneel for the Communion Prayer at Trinity though others stand or sit. Phew! In all of this, we invite you to worship as it meets the needs of your body. Your presence among us is the most important thing!*

### Pastor's Welcome

Processional Hymn #83

*O come, all ye faithful*

*Adeste Fideles*

### Opening Acclamation

*(The people stand as able.)*

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

Celebrant: Eternal God, who created all things out of love, we thank you for the gifts of grace and mercy; open our hearts to receive your love so that we might become like Jesus, loving ourselves and our neighbors just as you love us. In Your name we pray. *Amen.*

Song of Praise Hymn #96 *Angels we have heard on high*

*Gloria*

## Collect

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm *(sung by the choir)*

Psalm 96

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*

sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless the Lord's Name; \*

proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.

3 Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations \*

and wonders of the Lord among all peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*

more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*

but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of the presence of the Lord! \*

Oh, the power and the splendor of the sanctuary of our God!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
 ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the divine Name; \*  
 come into the Holy courts with your offerings.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
 let the whole earth tremble in awe.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is Sovereign! \*  
 the Lord has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved  
 and will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
 before the Lord who is coming, \*  
 who is coming to judge the earth.

13 The Lord will judge the world with righteousness \*  
 and the peoples with truth.

## SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn #100

*Joy to the world*

*Antioch*

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Deacon: 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. 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 Savior, 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 favors!" 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon

The Rev. Sarah C. Ginolfi

### The Nicene Creed

*Celebrant: Let us affirm our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*

*People: 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.*

### **Prayers of the People**

Reader: Dear God, guide us in our mission to follow Jesus, build community, and love others through service. We pray for your Church throughout the world;

People: *That we all may be one.*

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

People: *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

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

People: *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

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

People: *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Reader: We remember with love all those in whose memory the Christmas flowers have been given. Give to the departed eternal rest.

People: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Reader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Reader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*(Silence)*

Celebrant: 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.*

## The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

## Announcements

*Thank you for your financial gift to the life of Trinity Church. Your contribution truly is a gift which helps our church family spread God's gift of love and joy with the world! To give electronically, see the QR code in the announcements.*

## The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn #109

*The first nowell the angel did say*

*The First Nowell*

**Sursum Corda S 120** (*sung; service music is in the front section of the hymnal*)

Celebrant: 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 him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary, his mother, so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become your children. And so we join the saints and angels proclaiming your glory, as we say:

**Sanctus S 128** (*In the front section of the blue hymnal.*)

**Mathias**

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.*

*The people stand or kneel and the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as

one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*People: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.*

#### *The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.*

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*People: 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.*



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*You are welcome at God's table! To join in this sacred meal, proceed up the center aisle and either stand or kneel along the railing. The inside rows go first up the center aisle and then the outside rows dismiss to the back of the church and then up the center aisle. If that's too far a walk, please come to the railing in whatever way you are most able, or alert an usher if you wish to receive communion in your seat. There are two options to receive the wine: by sharing from the common chalice (cup) or by intinction (dipping the wafer) into the Communion Bowl. Please do not use the common cup for dipping. Gluten free wafers and/or grape juice are available upon request. Finally, those wishing to receive a blessing instead of Communion are invited to cross their arms as a signal to the priest.*

Communion Anthem	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	13th cent. Plainsong, arr. John Riddle
Hymn #78 (omit verse 4)	<i>O little town of Bethlehem</i>	Forest Green
Hymn #101	<i>Away in a manger</i>	Cradle Song

### Post Communion Prayer of Mission

*All: God 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.*

*After the Post Communion Prayer, the lights will dim, candles will be lit, and for a moment of quiet, the congregation sits or kneels:*

Hymn #111	<i>Silent night, Holy night</i>	<i>Stille Nacht</i>
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### The Blessing

Celebrant: Life is short and we don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us, so be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Hymn #87

*Hark! the herald angels sing*

*Mendelssohn*

Dismissal

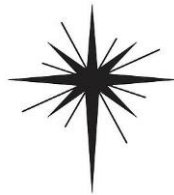
Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

Postlude

*Vom Himmel Hoch*  
*(From Heaven above to Earth I come)*

*Johann Pachelbel*



**\*\*Many thanks to all who helped prepare the church for Christmas!\*\***



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

# 2024 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

## 2024 DEATHS:

Jamie Stacy  
Joan Besson



William B. Thomas  
Walter & Janice Patrick  
Peter Svahn, Sr.  
Alexis J. Smith  
John & Shirley Dumouchel  
Betty Dumouchel  
Karen Welch  
Ethel Dumouchel  
Ernie Wright  
William H. & Leone Fryer  
Alfred & Patricia Peterson  
Mary Ellen Harder  
James & Iris Harder  
William Harder  
William & Mary McFie  
Robert McFie  
Edna Dadson  
Mr. & Mrs. Garell Readnour  
Mr. & Mrs. Hudson Readnour  
Mr. & Mrs. Jasper Readnour  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stefanchik  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stefanchik, Jr.  
Dorothy Conry  
Jean Toth  
Michael Stefanchik, III  
Christopher & Pamela Peplau  
Robert & Helen Kinney  
Rita Keeler & Robert Morgan  
Florence & Charles Perry  
Robert & Elaine Perry  
Henry Perry  
Lawrence Perry  
John Jaworski  
Cindy Riddle  
John & Marion Riddle  
Mabel K. Riddle  
Jeffrey Thompson  
Charles & Virginia Thompson  
Gladys E. Milliman

Harry & Estelle Beer  
Marion Beer  
William Pratt  
David Mudgett  
Dorothy Mainolfi  
John Musetti  
Charles & Louise Eichel  
Lori Francis Ruth  
John S. Eichel  
Dorothy Paul  
Carol Minogue  
Marilla Jasmine  
Jim Ruth  
Oren & Helen Bates  
Dick & Betty Congdon  
Ed & Flossie McDonnell  
Jean Haseltine  
Doug Leary  
Walt Camara  
The Novak Family  
Dottie Williams  
Jane Quagliata  
Paul Monteleone  
Agnes Hinds  
Janet & Neil O'Brien  
Grace N. McCullough  
Elsie Bassett  
Loring and Esther Hill  
Milton & Catherine Jacoby  
John Jacoby  
Howard Jacoby  
Gerard Jacoby  
Peter R. Klein  
Martha Zullo  
Tamara Zullo Delahanty  
Rose Bolintiam  
Ruth & Francis Holden  
Marion & Guy Blosser  
Francis Reis  
Robert Holden  
William Holden  
Kimberly Oakman  
Stephen Oakman  
Carlene Bennett

Ruth Seward  
Nelson Soulia  
Bishop John H. Smith  
Walter Nourse  
Veda & Al Ghio  
Roderick Phillips  
Mary V. Phillips  
Lillian Ann Perry  
Joan Briggs  
Welles Patrick Levins  
Joel Williams  
Jeremiah Warner  
Beverly DeGray  
June Shook  
Avis & Al Bond  
Marion Driscoll  
Hazel Sodegren  
Hazel Looker  
Carleton & Beatrice Grace  
Harold & Nellie Cook  
Doris F. (Dotty) Scott  
Wesley D. (Mike) Scott  
John C. Kaufman  
Anna A. Kaufman  
Charles Brush Chahanovich  
Richard A. Clark  
Charles "Harry" Brush  
Audreta Joyce Brush  
Tyler C. Webb  
Shirley M. Parker  
Judith G. Franzoni  
Peter Franzoni



## IN THANKSGIVING AND CELEBRATION OF:

the dear people of Trinity Episcopal  
Church, Rutland