

TRINITY CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

9:30 a.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

9:30a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist

Throughout the season of Advent, our worship and prayers will explore more ways of naming God that are inclusive and, at times, also raise up images of the feminine Divine. You are always invited to pray as it meets your spiritual practice.

The Word of the Lord

Prelude	Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen Prelude on "Veni Emmanuel"	Johannes Brahms G. Winston Cassler
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Opening Hymn #56	O come, O come, Emmanuel	Veni Emmanuel
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The Lighting of the Advent Wreath ~ Peace

- Celebrant: Great Mother, womb of the universe, from whom all life is born, we open our hearts to your boundless compassion and strength. Awaken within us the sacred remembering of our essence, that we too are vessels of your light.
- Reader: Ever-creating God, Mother of us all, whose love burns with holy strength and tender mercy: shape in us the courage and compassion of Christ. Teach us to love without fear, to protect the vulnerable, and to nurture the life you entrust to us.
- Celebrant: Let us pray. O Divine Mother, balance us with your nurturing and your strength. Heal our bodies and our souls from pain. May we walk about your creation in reverence, with strong backs, soft hearts, and open hands. Let our lives reflect your perfection and infinite being. Amen.

Gradual Hymn #66	Come, thou long expected Jesus	Stuttgart
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Opening Sentences

- Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.
- People: You come to your people and set them free.

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.

Lessons of the Day

- First Reading
- Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.
- Isaiah 7:10-16
- Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young

woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Choir sings the Anglican Chant.*

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, *
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #81

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Es ist ein Ros

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Deacon: Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

the Rev. Sarah Ginolfi

The Nicene Creed (Congregation)

Celebrant: Let us affirm our faith in 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.

Intercession Prayers

adapted from the New Zealand BCP Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Nurturing God, enliven the Church for its mission

People: *that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.*

Intercessor: Breathe fresh life into your people. **We pray especially for the Anglican Church of Burundi; Ministry of Green Mountain Online Abbey; the Rev. adwoa Wilson, Vicar for Discipleship and Formation and Clergy in Charge of the Abbey. We pray for the Most**

Rev. Sarah Mullally, called to be Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray also for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Shannon, our Bishop; Thomas and Rob, our companion Bishops of Maine and New Hampshire; for Sarah, our priest; and Liz, our Deacon; and for all our lay leaders.

People: Give us courage to reveal Christ in word and action.

Intercessor: We pray for the world: We pray that the children under the protection of Orphan Care Volunteers Association in Uganda receive those blessings necessary to sustain their physical and spiritual well-being. Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

People: That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Intercessor: Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

People: Teach us to care creatively and justly for its resources.

Intercessor: We pray for the community. In our cycle of prayers celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, we pray for joyful blessings upon **Alden Franzoni, Xzavier Chipp-Blair, Bill Meub, Nick Searles, Preston Billings, Susan Champine, Jamie Peterson**. God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

People: that all may act with integrity and strength of heart.

Intercessor: We pray for those in need **especially for Michelle, Barbara, MaryAnn, Jennifer, Rhonda, Sally Jo, Molly, Carolyn, Chelsea, Sue, John, Kathi, Chris, Joseph**. God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

People: May they know the power of your healing love.

Intercessor: We remember those who have died and those who mourn, **especially Janet & Neil O'Brien, Bernice & Vernon Fifield, Effie Bush & family for whom the altar flowers have been given**. O Great Divine,

People: Into your hands we commend them.

Intercessor: We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

People: May their example inspire and encourage us.

Intercessor: Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People: Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: God of all mercy, 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 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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

Thank you for your financial commitment to the life of Trinity Church. Your faithful stewardship helps our mission to follow Jesus, build community and love others through service. Unlabeled cash offerings go to the discretionary outreach fund. To give to the parish general fund, use the labeled envelopes in your pew.

Offertory Anthem

Salutation Carol

15th cent. English Carol, harm. RV Williams

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant: God 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.

Celebrant: God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S 124

All: 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 Holy Communion

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People: *We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.*

Celebrant: Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: *Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*

Celebrant: God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal. Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*


A Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray,

All: *Our loving God in heaven, holy is your Name, may your reign come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For all creation, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

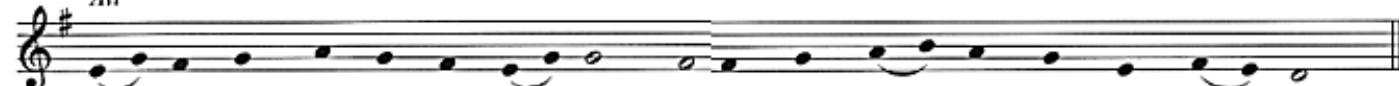
The Fraction

Cantor



We break this bread to share in the Bod - y of Christ.

All



We who are ma - ny are one bod - y, for we all share in the one bread.

The Invitation

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God. Holy food for holy people.

You are welcome at God's table! To receive, come up the center aisle to the rail and return via the side aisles. If mobility is a concern, ask an usher for Communion at your seat. Receive wine by drinking from the common cup or by intinction (dipping the wafer) into the Communion Bowl—not the cup. A grape juice bowl (lighter colored liquid) is offered and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. To receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest to signal that to the priest.

Communion Anthem

Hymn to Our Lady

Robert Lau

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: 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. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers
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Deacon: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

All: We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Blessing

from <i>Enriching Our Worship</i>

Celebrant: May the blessing of the God of Sarah and Abraham, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn #72

<i>Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes</i>

Richmond

Dismissal

Deacon: Dismissal

People: Thanks Be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

Exiting: Your presence is a blessing! Thank you for this gift.