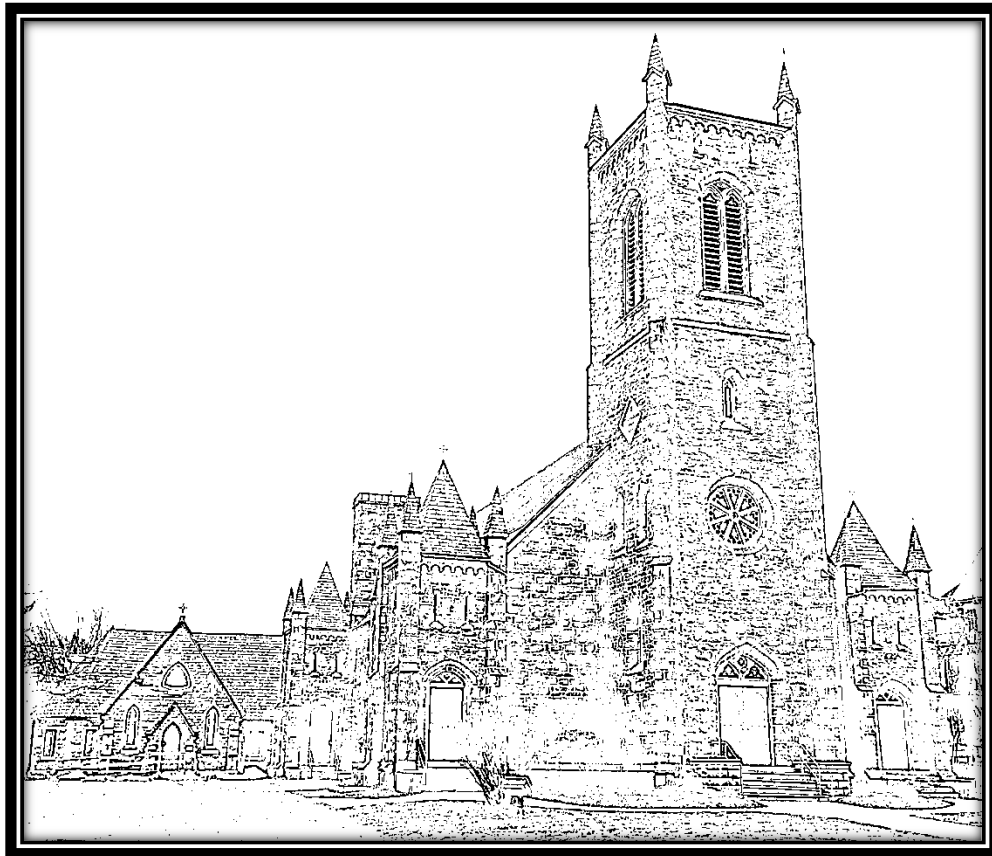


Trinity Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

9:30 a.m.



Welcome to our Trinity Church family!

85 West Street, P.O. Box 367, Rutland, VT 05701

(802) 775-4368

office@trinitychurchrutland.org

www.trinitychurchrutland.org

We are a vibrant Episcopal family united in following Christ.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: The Rev. Sarah C. Ginolfi

Cell: (717) 575-7137

Email: sarah.ginolfi@trinitychurchrutland.org

Announcements

Face Masks Required for In-Person Worship—With the increase of COVID-19 cases in Vermont and nationwide and for the safety of our Trinity family, we are now requiring that face masks be worn in church and that seating spacing be more strictly followed. If you do not have a mask, please ask the ushers for one. Please use the pews marked with green tape.

Calling All Christmas Carolers!—The Outreach and Evangelism Team is planning a Christmas caroling event that will be held on the front lawn at Trinity on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 4:30pm. They invite Trinity members to show up to represent their beloved church to Rutland, during the 5 o'clock rush hour; and feel free to bring your friends along. Hot chocolate will be provided!

Advent Series: Invite, Welcome, Connect—Advent is a season of preparation, hope, and hospitality. During this season, we'll run an evening formation series via Zoom to explore how we can invite, welcome, and connect newcomers to our beloved parish home. The final of the three sessions will be this Tuesday at 7:00pm and will center on "connect." While these three focus areas are interrelated, those in attendance will be able to access each night's content without participating in every session. We'll email a link to the Zoom meeting each week.

Christmas Services—Christmas Eve, December 24: we begin at 5:15pm with a musical prelude and Holy Eucharist follows at 5:30pm. On Christmas Day, December 25: we'll celebrate Holy Eucharist at 9:30am. Since Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, our service on Sunday, December 26 will be a "lessons and carols" style service with Nanci Gordon leading us in prayer and offering the homily (at our regular 9:30am time).

Office Holiday Hours—The offices will be closed on 12/24 and 12/26, and 12/31 and 1/3. During the week between Christmas and New Year's, staff will be in the offices only on an "as necessary" basis, so regular hours will not be observed during the holidays.

2022 Calendars Available—The 2022 Liturgical calendars, compliments of Tossing Funeral Home are available for pick up in the narthex.

Ingathering for Communion Wine—We are accepting donations of Sheffield's Tawny Port Wine for our Holy Communion.

Christmas Tree Pickup—Rutland Boy Scout Troops 105 and 120 will once again collect discarded Christmas trees at the end of the holiday season, with pickup dates scheduled for Saturdays, January 8 and 15. To schedule your tree pickup, please call 802-438-8721 or email RutlandBSTreeCollection@gmail.com. (This is their major fundraiser, so donations are greatly appreciated and accepted at pickup.)



ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TODAY IN MEMORY OF:

**Gustavus, Sr. & Ruth Crowell, Gustavus Crowell, Jr.
and**

Janet O'Brien, Effie Bush & family, Vernon & Bernice Fifield, Neil O'Brien

Our Staff: *Priest-in-Charge*, the Rev. Sarah Ginolfi; *treasurer*, Linda Fay; *Parish Administrator*, Wendy Grace; *Music Director*, John Riddle; *Sexton*, Jeff Zoesch

Our Vestry: *Senior Warden*, Fern Fryer; *Junior Warden*, Jay Slenker; *Members*: Melissa Alarie; Kathy Hall; Rich Jones; Krey Kellington; David Thurmer; Holly Webb

Today's Liturgical Assistants: *Altar Guild*— Nancy Blosser, Jane Jones, Shannon Hill; *Chalice Assistant*— Bob Bassett; *Old Testament Reader*— Shannon Hill; *Epistle Reader*— Gary Foskett; *Intercessor*— Nancy Blosser; *Ushers*— Marc Brierre, Rich Carlson; *Live Stream Tech*— Lisa Frankel-Boerner

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

The Invitatory

Prelude	<i>Two Advent Preludes Lento on a plainsong Kyrie Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"</i>	<i>G. Winston Cassler</i>
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Opening Hymn #56	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>
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The Lighting of the Advent Wreath	<i>Fourth Candle - the Candle of Love</i>
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Advent wreath with 4 candles lit represents John the Baptist who calls us to prepare the way of the Lord.

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: *Thanks be to God*

Officiant: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love. Last Sunday we lit the Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy. We light them again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope, our peace, and our joy.

(A person lights the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.)

Officiant: Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness. Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

(A person lights the Fourth Candle, the Candle of Love.)

Officiant: Let us pray:

All: *Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen.*

Opening Sentences

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

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Officiant: 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.*

(Music denoted with an S prefix is service music and is located in the front of the hymnal.)

*All: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

The Collect of the Day

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Officiant: 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 Word of the Lord

Lessons of the Day

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Reader: A reading from the book of Micah.

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.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Song of Mary (Canticle 3)

S 185

(sung by the choir)

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.*

*For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.*

*For behold from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.*

*For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.*

*And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.*

*He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

*He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.*

*He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.*

*He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.*

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #267

Praise we the Lord this day

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

the Rev. Sarah Ginolfi

Nicene Creed (Congregation)

Officiant: Please join me in saying the Nicene Creed.

All: 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 and Confession

Reader: Dear God, we seek to follow your will. Guide us as we deepen in spirituality, grow in compassion, and be your courageous hope in the world.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. We pray for **the Church of the Province of Central America; Ministries of Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, and the Trustees of the Diocese.** We pray also for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Shannon, our Bishop, Sarah, our priest, and for all bishops and other ministers. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Reader: God, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Reader: God, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Reader: God, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We pray for parishioners celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, **especially Ruth Lampi & Jessica Van Oort, Xzavier**

Chipp-Blair, Alden Franzoni, Bill Meub, Nick Searles. Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Reader: God, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, we pray for: **Rodney, John, Meg, Mike, Emily, Susan, Eric, Mona, Harriet, Mary Ann, Joan, Guy, Arlynn, Christian.** Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Reader: God, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially **Gustavus, Sr. & Ruth Crowell, Gustavus Crowell, Jr., and Janet O'Brien, Effie Bush & family, Vernon & Bernice Fifield, Neil O'Brien** in whose memory the altar flowers have been given, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Reader: God, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Officiant: O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Confession and Absolution

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

All: 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.

Officiant: 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

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

People: *And also with you.*

Thank you for remaining in your place for the passing of the peace. In these times, you may exchange the peace through eye contact with a wave, a bow, a smile, or whatever motion you grow to embrace in this adapted practice.

Announcements

All may come up the center aisle to receive Communion. Alert an usher if you wish to receive communion in your seat. The priest will distribute the bread and the wine in "kits" that we will consume together once all are served.

Thank you for your financial commitment to the life of Trinity Church. Your gift helps our church family spread God's love and joy in the world! Offering plates are located at the top of the center aisle on the way to the altar as well as near the center exit doors.

Offertory Anthem

A Hymn to Our Lady

Robert Lau

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

S 120

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 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:

Sanctus

S 114

*All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Eucharistic Prayer B *(People stand or kneel as able.)*

Celebrant: 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,

*All: We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

Celebrant: 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.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

*All: 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 Fraction

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Agnus Dei

S 158

*All (sung): Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Grant us your peace.*

Notes from the “Welcome” Advent Series session on Dec 14th

In Tuesday’s session in the Advent Invite Welcome Connect Series, we focused on ways to welcome people to Trinity. Specifically, that means our practices for welcoming visitors once they enter the space for worship or church-hosted events.

We began our time by sharing our own stories about how we felt welcomed (or unwelcomed) when engaging in a new experience, culture, or community group. Some themes that arose that made us feel welcome included:

When we felt celebrated in our arrival or were invited to join in a larger culture of celebration already in place.

When we experienced an out of the way invitation upon welcome e.g. when we were given a tour of a new space or some instruction on what to anticipate in the new experience, when we were invited to someone’s home for dinner or an overnight stay in a time of need.

When we were specifically connected or introduced to others present.

When we felt our unique presence was valued i.e. when we were encouraged to bring our “whole selves” rather than being asked to assimilate into a culture (the latter being different than welcoming people into our tradition).

We then brainstormed the following action steps we could take at Trinity to enhance our welcome efforts:

- Wear name tags (which could be kept in the narthex at church)
- Update our pew cards and add a QR code to them linking newcomers to our website
- Host casual social events via Zoom (in that format for now)
- Make welcome bags to hand out to visitors with swag like Trinity pens or bookmarks and cookies
- Create an usher role that focuses specifically on gathering newcomer information, connecting newcomers to others, and orienting them to the space (some of this is already practiced by our brilliant usher team!)
- Create a newcomer specific page
- Develop an app for Trinity

This week’s Advent Series Session on Tuesday the 21st at 7pm will focus on “connecting” visitors to Trinity’s ministries and community.