

TRINITY CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 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. Second 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	Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)	J. S. Bach
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Opening Hymn #78	<i>The King shall come when morning dawns</i>	St. Stephen
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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: Breath of God, Mother of the Winds and Skies, whose joy renews the face of the earth: stir in us the gladness of your Spirit. Let your breath inspire creativity, gratitude, and delight, that we may reflect the joy of Christ to all we meet.

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, sts. 1-3 only	<i>Come, thou long expected Jesus</i>
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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. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Lessons of the Day

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those

who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Choir sings the Anglican Chant.

Psalm 146:4-9

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
 whose hope is in God their God;
 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
 who keeps their promise for ever;
 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
 and food to those who hunger.
 7 God sets the prisoners free; God opens the eyes of the blind; *
 God lifts up those who are bowed down;
 8 God loves the righteous; GOD cares for the stranger; *
 God sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
 9 God shall reign for ever, *
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Reader: A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #54

Savior of the Nations, Come!

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Celebrant: When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon	Nanci Gordon
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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
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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 Anglican-Episcopal Church of Brazil; the Ministries of the members of the Bishop's Staff and Rock Point Center, LLC Staff.** 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 **Adrian Sanford-Wilson, Charlene Clark**. 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 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 Fr. Mark Thompson who died recently, and John E. and Eva S. Hill 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

Celebrant: 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

Wilt not thou turn again, O Lord?

Philip Dietterich

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.*

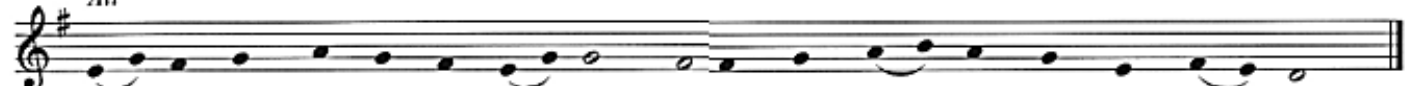
The Fraction

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

Within our hearts be born

Michael Joncas

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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Celebrant: 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 *Enriching Our Worship*

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 #68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Llangloffan

Dismissal

Celebrant: Dismissal

People: Thanks Be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 661)

J. S. Bach

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