

TRINITY CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

9:30 a.m.



WELCOME TO OUR TRINITY CHURCH FAMILY!

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We are a vibrant Episcopal family united in following Christ.

*Seeking * Growing * Serving * Embracing*

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Sarah C. Ginolfi

9:30a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent – Morning Prayer with Lessons and Carols of Advent

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

G. Winston Cassler

The Invitatory

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Fourth Candle - the Candle of Love

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. 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 Gods 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 together.

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 Hymn #56, st. 1-3

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Opening Sentences

Officiant: In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

People: *Come, let us adore him.*

The Confession and Absolution

Officiant: Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to praise God, to hear God's holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship, let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

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 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 Lessons and Carols

Officiant: As our Advent journey winds to a close, let us remember the stories of God's healing hope for the world, and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

First Reading

Genesis 3: 1-15

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn #54

Savior of the Nations, Come!

Second Reading

Baruch 4: 36-5:9

Reader: A reading from the book of Baruch.

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that

God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #73, st. 1,3,5

The King shall come when morning dawns

Third Reading

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #56, st. 4-5

O Come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Officiant: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of Christ.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn # 267, st. 1,2,5

Praise we the Lord this day

Officiant: Merciful God of peace, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope: Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, that we may hold fast to your great goodness and proclaim your justice in the world. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Officiant: Let us pray.

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.*

Intercession Prayers

Officiant: For our deepest and most holy longings we pray:

People: *Renew us, O God.*

Officiant: For all who wander, who hunger, who thirst:

People: *Renew us as a people of service and compassion.*

Officiant: For this planet, our home:

People: *Renew our will to be healers of creation.*

Officiant: For this and every nation:

People: *Renew in all people the will for good and the longing for peace.*

Officiant: For those whom we hold in our hearts:

(Here, the people may add particular intercessions and thanksgivings.)

Officiant: O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior: Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

The Blessings

Officiant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of the Lord's blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen.

May the One whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Psalm XIX

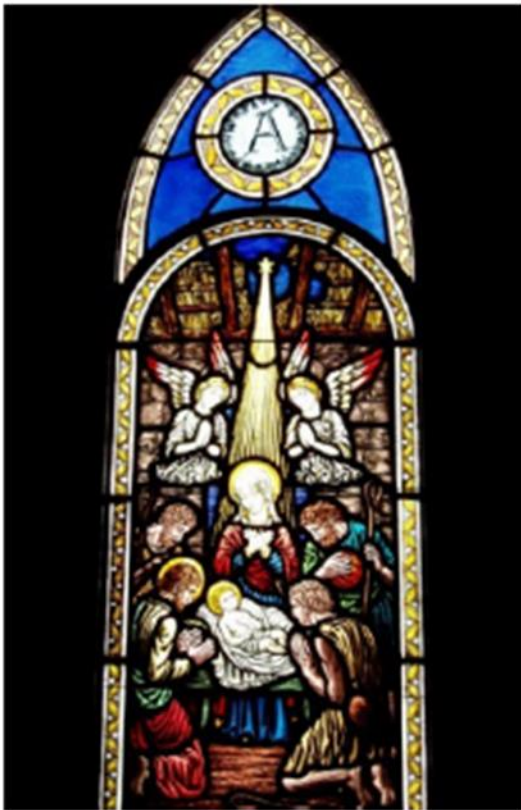
Benedetto Marcello



*Exiting: Your presence is a blessing! Thank you for this gift.
There are waste bins at each exit for communion container disposal.*

** We save paper by using the blue hymnal book rather than printing hymns in the bulletin. The Hymnal 1982 uses masculine pronouns for God since that was customary at the time of its printing. Those worshipping, however, are welcome to substitute gender neutral pronouns for God when singing or speaking if that better honors your practice.*

OH, COME LET US ADORE HIM!



Our Trinity Church family wishes you and yours a Holy and blessed Christmastide in 2023!

Come celebrate the Nativity of our Lord with us:

Christmas Eve

★ 7:00pm Choral Prelude

★ 7:30pm Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

★ 9:30am Holy Eucharist

Christmas I – Dec. 31

★ 9:30am Morning Prayer

w/ Carols Sing-Along

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

85 West St., Rutland

The Rev. Sarah C. Ginolfi



Announcements for 12/24/2023

December Office Closures— 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. The offices at Trinity will be closed on December 25 and 26 for Christmas. They will be closed January 1 for New Year’s. Wendy will also be out of the office (remote work day) on Tuesday, January 2. Mother Sarah will be away the full week after Christmas so fully out of the office. Then, back in the office on January 2nd when she’ll then begin observing a Friday Sabbath rather than a Monday one.

Newcomer’s Welcome Event—We will host a special coffee hour event to welcome all newcomers to Trinity Church on Sunday, January 14. Come and share fellowship, one and all!

Annual “Socks for Souls” Drive—Our annual sock drive will be held from Christmas Eve (that’d be today) through our Annual Parish Meeting (January 28). There is a “sox box” receptacle in the narthex for donations.

Boy Scouts’ Tree Pickup Service—Rutland Boy Scout Troops 105, 110, 120, and 2019 will collect discarded Christmas trees at the end of the holiday season, with pickup dates scheduled for Saturdays, January 6 and 13. 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.)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Brunch—Grace UCC will host the NAACP who will offer a brunch on January 15, 2024. Tickets and more information will be available soon.

Supporting Companions in Wholeness—Trinity continues to help provide meals on Tuesdays and if you’d like to join the team, please contact Ellie McGarry at Rutland United Methodist Church. Also, Mondays are usually a high-need days as well and some Trinity parishioners may choose serve on that day instead.

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

Our Vestry: *Senior Warden*, Holly Webb; *Junior Warden*, Rich Jones; *Members:* Melissa Alarie; Elizabeth Bushey; Judy Hall; Jay Slenker; David Thurmer; Cassi Whitcomb

Today’s Liturgical Assistants: *Altar Guild*— Helen Thomas, Mary Ruth, Winnie Grace; *First Lesson Reader*— Sue Beriau; *Second Lesson Reader*— David Thurmer; *Third Lesson Reader*—Wendy Grace; *Fourth Lesson Reader*— Karen Cartier; *Ushers*—Jay Slenker, Melissa Slenker; *Live Stream Tech*— Melissa Alarie

Ways of Giving— We are humbled by the generosity of people who support our church and its mission and there are a number of ways to make your offering.

- Use the “Donate” button on our website.
- Text “TrinityRutland” to 73256 to give using your mobile device.
- Scan this QR code and follow the instructions.
- As always, if you prefer giving envelopes, we have those, too!

