

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

December 24, 2023

7:00 p.m.



TRINITY CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

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

Contact:

85 West Street

Rutland, VT 05701

802-775-4368

office@trinitychurchrutland.org

Member of:

The Diocese of Vermont

The Episcopal Church

The Anglican Communion

www.trinitychurchrutland.org

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Choral Prelude

<i>The Holly and the Ivy</i>	<i>trad. English carol, arr. John Riddle</i>
<i>Wexford Carol</i>	<i>trad. Irish carol, arr. Mark Sedio</i>
<i>In the Bleak Mid-Winter</i>	<i>Harold Darke</i>
<i>Two selections from the Christmas Oratorio, Part I</i>	<i>J. S. Bach</i>
<i>Aria: Grosser Herr, o starker König (David Rugger, baritone)</i>	
<i>Chorale: Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein</i>	
<i>Balulalow</i>	<i>Peter Warlock</i>
<i>Puer Natus in Bethlehem (Cum Novo Cantico)</i>	<i>Gerald Near</i>

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!

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 62:6-12

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm *(sung by the choir)*

Psalm 97

1 The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
2 Clouds and darkness are round about you, O Lord; *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne.
3 A fire goes before you *
and burns up your enemies on every side.
4 Your lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
6 The heavens declare your righteousness, *
and all the peoples see your glory.
7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before the Lord, all you gods.
8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgements, O Lord.
9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
10 The Lord loves those who hate evil, *
preserving the lives of the saints and delivering them from the hand of the wicked.
11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to the holy name of the Lord.

SECOND LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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 2:8-20

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

People: *Glory to you, O Christ.*

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

Sermon

The Rev. Sarah C. Ginolfi

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant: Let us declare our faith in the Holy Trinity, one God.

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, we seek to follow your will. Guide us as we deepen in spirituality, grow in compassion, and be your courageous hope in the world. Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

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! Offering plates are located at the top of the center aisle and next to the side exit door. 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.*

Fraction Anthem S 152 (*In the front section of the blue hymnal.*)

Hurd

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
Hymn #78 (omit verse 4)
Hymn #81 (if needed)

*Before the Marvel of this Night
O little town of Bethlehem
Lo, how a rose e're blooming*

Carl Schalk
*Forest Green
Es ist ein Ros*

Post Communion Prayer of Mission

Celebrant and People: 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 for a moment of silence, the congregation kneels:

Hymn #111

Silent night, Holy night

Stille Nacht

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

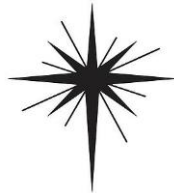
Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

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!****