

Trinity News

Volume MMXXI No. 12 ❖ DECEMBER 2021

Christmas at Trinity

We are excited to celebrate Christ's birth with the following worship schedule this Christmas season. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at all liturgies.



Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

*Prelude music
begins at 7:00 p.m.*

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 26

8:00 a.m. (*Christ Chapel*)

10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 2

8:00 a.m. (*Christ Chapel*)

10:00 a.m.

There are no capacity limits or advanced registration requirements this year, but all attendees will be required to wear masks. We encourage those concerned about Covid-19 to participate in the livestream of the **4:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve liturgy which will be available at: www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester.

As a reminder, 10:00 a.m. Sunday liturgies may also be viewed at that site.

HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

Keeping Advent and Christmas Together

Cantor Mark Mummert

We are encouraging everyone to participate in the observance of Advent and Christmas this year, guided by the book, *Heaven and Nature Sing*. This daily devotional includes a verse from the first two chapters of Luke's gospel, a quote from a supplemental source to ponder, and a reflection to focus our prayer. The book also includes household prayers for evening, lighting the advent wreath or Christmas tree, a blessing for a home nativity scene, and table prayers for meals. In addition, our congregation will offer short video reflections by ministry staff and members through our congregation's YouTube channel.

Hard copies of the book, in both a small pocket-sized version or a large-print edition, are available at the entrance to the nave. Or, you may wish to purchase an electronic version (Ebook) (only \$1.99) for reading on your Kindle / Nook / Google or other smart devices (available here: <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506480589/Heaven-and-Nature-Sing>).

The Trinity Lutheran YouTube Channel is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9IFOqf7RLM5oFkHnufXO-Q>

The daily video reflections will be posted to our congregation's Facebook page as well.

Keeping the days of Advent, including the four Advent Sundays, helps us prepare to receive God in the variety of ways God comes to us. Celebrating the twelve days of Christmas helps us to see Christ as light amid the darkness of our world. Observing Advent and Christmas with a common devotional practice helps us to move through these days *together*, united in the word of God and the ongoing prayer of the faithful.

At Trinity Church, we begin our Advent observance each year with our annual Advent Lessons and Carols, during which we hear again the words of scripture that invite us to the season, singing songs and anthems in response. Please join us in the nave on Sunday, November 28 at 4:00 p.m. for this service led by Trinity Choir.

I look forward to worshipping with you at Trinity Church during the coming seasons. Together, we can anticipate God advancing toward us, in new and surprising ways. If you have not resumed attending worship in person since the pandemic, Advent is the perfect time to come back to the center of our life together – communal worship.

COUNCIL UPDATE – PRESIDENT DAVE HORN

Our Congregational Council held our monthly meeting, Monday, November 15 and dealt with a range of issues. Among these were filling some vacancies. Beth Axelson has resigned her position on Council and we thank her for her years of faithful service. The Council voted to approve Beth Getman as Vice President for the remainder of Beth Axelson's term. Beth Getman will also chair the Nominating Committee for the 2022 Council. If you feel called to serve on Council, please contact Beth Getman. The Council also appointed Ed Sproul and Susan Brown to fill vacancies on the Personnel Committee. We held a preliminary discussion on our 2022 budget which presents some significant challenges. In order to maintain our current situation, we need to budget a significant deficit in 2022, and we will be making what adjustments we can before presenting a budget for adoption at the Annual Congregational Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 30 (with February 6 reserved as a snow date). As we move forward in planning our future, the Council authorized implementation of the Congregational Assessment Tool (C.A.T.) early in 2022. The C.A.T. is routinely used to evaluate congregations and help them make strategic decisions. The C.A.T. will help us evaluate who we are and where we are headed. Stay tuned.

NEWS & UPDATES

MONDAY – WALKING IN THE NAVE / If you are looking for some exercise, Trinity's Nave will be open for walking on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. Come and walk in the beauty of Trinity's Nave!

MONTHLY SENIOR LUNCHEONS HAVE RESUMED IN JEPSON HALL - The monthly senior luncheons have resumed and will be held the **second Monday** of each month at Noon in Jeppson Hall. In December, the luncheon will meet on Monday, December 8. A simple lunch of soup, bread and dessert will be served. A \$3.00 donation is suggested. A program will take place after lunch.

JENA HILL IS RETURNING FROM PARENTAL LEAVE – Jena writes: “I am so grateful for the time and space that I have had to focus on becoming a parent for the past four weeks! From Tuesday, November 16 until Tuesday, November 30, I will be in the office on a part-time basis at Trinity as we continue to figure out how to be a family with two working parents of an active, loving 7-year old boy navigating the challenges and demands of the DCF system. I look forward to joining you all for worship again on Sundays in December as we introduce “A,” to this community of faith! If I don't see you in person, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!”

AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT - Thank you to all who have volunteered to become part of our Neighborhood Support Team to welcome an Afghan family to Worcester. We are working with Ascentria and Welcome MA to prepare for their arrival. We do not expect them to arrive before mid-December or January, but we have plenty of work to do to prepare for their arrival. So far, we have at least 27 volunteers who have signed up with us.

We will also be working with volunteers from Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church. Father Richard Trainor is very enthusiastic about reconnecting with us, as our congregations have been in a Covenant relationship in the past. Ed Sproul will be at Blessed Sacrament this coming Sunday to bring them on board, and to get names of volunteers. Pastor Gracious Moyo, who will be installed on Sunday as the new pastor at Concordia Lutheran Church, has also indicated a strong interest in working with us.

Barbara Petrocelli, a volunteer from Ascentria, has told us that a potential apartment has been offered, and that Ascentria can pay a large part of the rent for several months, but the apartment needs to pass a building inspection first. Our Apartment Set-up committee is meeting this week to begin planning for providing furnishings and kitchen supplies and equipment. We will keep you updated as we become aware of specific needs.

Our Finance and Fundraising committees are working to set up accounts to manage the funds for this effort. We will let you know when we are ready to accept donations, and the best ways to give. Thank you for your interest, and for your prayers.

Ed and Bess Sproul, co-leaders of Trinity NST (Neighborhood Support Team)
esproul2@gmail.com (Bess) or ed.sproul@gmail.com (Ed)



TRINITY BOOK CLUB - The book club has been operating for a few months. We have decided to switch our format to one book a month beginning in January. We will alternate fiction and non-fiction choices. All meetings will be at **1:30 p.m.** in the Library. We may revisit this time in the Spring. Susan Brown sbrown5453@gmail.com is the contact for the Fiction Book Club gatherings and contact for the Non-Fiction Book Club is Beth Getman rntaximom@gmail.com.

Our upcoming books are:

- Monday, December 6th in the Library at 1:30 p.m. ... *The First Christmas* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan (non-fiction)
- Monday, January 31st in the Library at 1:30 p.m. ... *What is the Bible* by Rob Bell (non-fiction)
- Monday, February 28 in the Library at 1:30 p.m. ... *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson (fiction)

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



If you wish to make a donation in *memory of* or *in honor of* of a loved one, please list the name of the individual and/or family. Please use the Christmas Flower envelope in your offering box. If you wish to make a donation *online* please be sure to include the names of those you wish to remember *in the comments column*. We want to be sure to include all names. Names of those being remembered will appear in the worship bulletin on Christmas Eve, Christmas and the First Sunday of Christmas, and in the January Trinity News. If possible, please try to submit names by Sunday, December 19. If you have any questions, please contact Office Manager Chris Jackel.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."
John 15:5*



Commitment Sunday was held on Sunday, October 31st. On that day, Commitment Cards for 2022 were collected during the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. liturgies. If you have not returned your commitment card, please either mail it to the church office at your earliest convenience or place it in the offering plate the next time you are at church. Thanks for your continued financial support of the congregation and ministry of Trinity Church!

CHURCH MOUSE REPORT

CHURCH MOUSE REPORT - The Personnel Committee has enlisted the help of the Church Mouse to communicate with the congregation the work the staff puts in during the weeks, and behind the scenes, to keep the ministry moving forward in mission. The monthly Church Mouse Report will focus on different staff members each month. Stay tuned!

Hello Congregants! The church mouse would like to let you know just what Pastor Piphon and Cantor Mummert have been up to lately. Busy months of October/November for sure.

Pastor Nathan

Pastor met with three (3) new prospective members and paid four (4) hospital/home visits. Pastor preached/presided over the funeral of dear Anna Granquist, tended to logistical details for the funeral of Pr. Ron Jackson, attended the funeral of Pr. Paul Peterson, and had lunch with the new pastor of Concordia Lutheran, Pr. Gracious Moyo. Pastor worked with Council and Teams attending/facilitating 9 meetings, including discussing his five (5) required annual staff reviews with the Personnel Committee, the Congregational Meeting about budget issues, and the very well attended meeting to organize over 30 volunteers to sponsor an Afghan family...soon!

That's in addition to four (4) staff meetings, two (2) Ministry staff meetings, weekly Preschool chapel, Adult forums, and Bible Study on Wednesday nights! Then, of course, what all you congregants regularly see, his Sunday sermons. Pastor also attended an online conference on Trauma, a Worcester Interfaith Board Meeting, wrote a lead article for November Trinity News, and recruited two (2) new members to serve on the Personnel committee.

Cantor Mark

Mark also had a busy month (always a busy guy!) despite being sidelined for over a week with illness. He prepped/played weekly Sunday Holy Eucharists, two (2) Midweek Homilies, conducted (three (3) 2-hour Thursday night Trinity Choir rehearsals, as well as three (3), 40 minute. Sunday morning rehearsals, three (3) Sunday rehearsals with the Choristers, and two (2) music classes for the Preschool.

He spent 32 hours editing worship materials, 15 hours rehearsing his own musical offerings, and 20 hours planning for the month and beyond (Bach and Advent Lessons and Carols coming soon!). He attended three (3) staff meetings, two (2) ministry meetings, and one Interfaith Hospitality Network Board meeting. Oh yes, and he facilitated three (3) Tuesday morning Bible Studies. He continues to serve on the Advisory Council of the Assoc. of Lutheran Church Musicians (currently in preparation for the 2022 conference in Valparaiso) and recently performed a solo organ concert in Milford, Ct.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (*No sessions on Sundays, Dec. 26 or Jan. 2*)

This 45-minute gathering in the Trinity Church Library meets to discuss Martin Luther's Small Catechism with reflections by African American theologians of the Lutheran Church.

Pastor Nathan leads

Tuesday Bible Study

Weekly at 11:00 a.m. (*No session on Tuesday, Dec. 28*)

This 60-minute gathering in the Trinity Church Library reflects on the appointed bible readings for the upcoming Sunday's worship.

Cantor Mark Mummert leads

Wednesday Bible Study

Weekly at 8:00 a.m.

This 60-minute gathering in the Trinity Church Library meets to read and reflect on the appointed bible readings for the upcoming Sunday's worship.

Dave Horn leads

Wednesday Beginner Bible Study

Weekly at 6:45 p.m.

(*No sessions on Wednesdays, Dec. 22 & 29 and Jan. 4*)

This 60-minute gathering in the Trinity Church Library (and Zoom) those who have never attended a bible study before, reflects on the gospel reading assigned for the upcoming Sunday.

Pastor Nathan leads

❖ CELEBRATIONS ❖

BIRTHDAYS

Alice Lindberg – December 8
Henry Holmgren – December 11
James Moriarty – December 12
Diane McKean – December 13
Albert Ostlund, Jr. – December 13
Ann Burgdorf – December 15
Barbara LeBlanc – December 18
Martha Hagberg – December 21
Margaret Berg – December 23
Doug Behm – December 30
Carol Peura – December 31

ANNIVERSARIES

Susan & Stephen Nawn – December 3
Bryan & Claire Benway – December 4
Ronald & Nancy Aucoin – December 15
Diane & Ronald McKean – December 16
Andre & Debra Rován – December 20
David & Beverly Hobbs – December 30
Kenneth & Cheryl DeWolfe – December 31

+ DEATHS +

Nancy Johnson – Died November 5, 2021
David Carlson – Died November 7, 2021



Our Harvest Celebration took place on November 2 and 3. The weather fully cooperated, and for the first time in several years, we were able to set up all of our activities outside on the playground. The parents graciously contributed pumpkins and special snacks for the event. The excitement from the children in each class was contagious!

Parent/Teacher conferences took place on November 11. We were able to conduct our conferences in person this year, a nice switch from last year's Zoom conferences. Some interactions are just better in person, and this is one of them. When we return from Thanksgiving break, we will fully immerse ourselves into the good news of Christmas.



+ Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

Sunday, November 28 First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16 *A righteous branch springs from David*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 *Strengthen hearts of holiness*

Luke 21:25-36 *Watch for the coming of the Son of Man*

Psalmody: Psalm 25:1-10 *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 436, *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*, WACHET AUF

This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. God is "advancing" towards us: in the past in the life of Jesus; in the present in word and sacrament; and in the future, even if there is disaster, in everlasting life. This Sunday we light the first candle on our Advent wreath, and we begin a year-long reading from the gospel of Luke.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, December 1

Isaiah 1:24-31 *Warning not to wither*

Luke 11:29-32 *The coming of the Son of Man*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Livestreamed on

www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, December 5 Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 *The messenger refines and purifies*

Philippians 1:3-11 *A harvest of righteousness*

Luke 3:1-6 *Prepare the way of the Lord*

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79 *In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 249, *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*, PUER NOBIS

On the second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles on the wreath, and we listen to John the Baptist, preaching, baptizing, and urging also us to prepare for the coming of Christ. Come to worship, to see "the salvation of our God."

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, December 8

Isaiah 35:3-7 *God's advent will change everything*

Luke 7:18-30 *John the Baptist questions Jesus*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Livestreamed on

www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, December 12 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 *Rejoice in God*

Philippians 4:4-7 *Rejoice, the Lord is near*

Luke 3:7-18 *One more powerful is coming*

Psalmody: Isaiah 12:2-6 *In your midst is the Holy One of Israel*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 261, *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn*, LUCENT

This coming Sunday we light three candles on the Advent wreath. While our society goes crazy with Christmas preparations and the northern hemisphere grows darker each day, we gather to hear John the Baptist urging us to accept God's good news.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, December 15

Micah 4:8-13 *God will thresh out the people*

Luke 7:31-35 *The Messiah and John the Baptist*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Livestreamed on

www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a *From Bethlehem comes a ruler*

Hebrews 10:5-10 *I have come to do your will*

Luke 1:39-45 *Blessed are you among women*

Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55 *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 258, *Unexpected and Mysterious*, ST HELENA

This Sunday, we light all four candles of the Advent wreath, and we read the story from Luke about Mary visiting Elizabeth. Christians believe that in baptism we too are filled with the Holy Spirit so that Christ will dwell in us. Come to worship: the mystery approaches.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, December 22

Isaiah 42:14-21 *God is like a woman in labor*

Luke 1:5-25 *Elizabeth will bear a child*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (*Nave Chancel*) Livestreamed on

www.facebook.com/tlcworcester

Friday, December 24 Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 *A child is born for us*

Titus 2:11-14 *The grace of God has appeared*

Luke 2:1-20 *God with us*

Psalmody: Psalm 96 *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 268, *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, VOM HIMMEL HOCH
On Christmas Eve we celebrate God being born on earth as a poor Jewish child, whom we call Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The darkness of the night recalls Calvary, and the candles we light anticipate the candles of Easter, for this infant was born to die and rise for us. With the angels we sing, "Glory to God!"

4:00 p.m. Family Holy Eucharist (*Nave*) Livestreamed at

www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

7:30 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist (*Nave*)

Saturday, December 25 Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10 *Heralds announce God's salvation*

Hebrews 1:1-12 *God has spoken by a son*

John 1:1-14 *The Word became flesh*

Psalmody: Psalm 98 *All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 295, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
On Christmas Day, when the church celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, we hear the great poem in John 1. John pushes the existence of Christ far back before Bethlehem: Jesus Christ, the Word of God, is God from before the creation of the world. In the dark of winter in the northern hemisphere, we break forth into singing, for Christ is the light of the world.

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Nave*)

Sunday, December 26 First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 *Samuel grew in favor with all*

Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothe yourselves in love*

Luke 2:41-52 *Jesus increased in favor with all*

Psalmody: Psalm 148 *The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 269, *Once in Royal David's City*, IRBY

This Sunday we hear Luke's story of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple, which the boy Jesus refers to as his Father's house. Come to worship with us, where we meet Jesus in his Father's house.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, December 29

No weekday worship

Sunday, January 2 Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 *Joy as God's scattered flock gathers*

Ephesians 1:3-14 *The will of God made known in Christ*

John 1:1-18 *God with us*

Psalmody: Psalm 147:12-20 *Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 296, *What Child Is This*, GREENSLEEVES

This year the liturgical calendar includes a second Sunday after Christmas before Epiphany, and the gospel is the Christological poem in John 1. On Christmas Day we heard John 1 in connection with Isaiah and Hebrews, and this Sunday with Jeremiah and Ephesians. For those of us who live in a cold climate, the psalm for the day is for us!

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2021-2022 Council Members

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Mark Mummert
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Pastor Nathan Piphoo
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Judy Willoughby

To contact someone on the Council, **e-mail** admin@trinityworc.org and the Parish Office will forward the messages; or **mail** your note to Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester, MA 01609-3152

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Trinity Worship Services on TV and the Internet

Live Stream Webcasts – www.trinityworc.org or www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

TV – Worcester: Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on Channel 194 (one week delay)

TV- Same Day Broadcasts: Shrewsbury – Channel 28, Sunday 8 p.m., Monday 12:30 a.m.

TV- Delayed Broadcasts: Auburn – Tuesday 11 p.m., Thursday 10 p.m., Sunday Noon & 11:30 p.m.; **Holden** – Channel 191, Sunday 8:00 a.m.; **Hudson** – Sunday 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., Wednesday 3 p.m.; **Leicester** – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.; **Millbury** – Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 3 p.m. & Saturday 7:30 p.m.; **Oxford** – Sunday 1:15 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.; **Spencer** – Saturday & Sunday 8:30 a.m.;

Sterling/Lancaster – Monday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. **Sutton** – Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday 9 a.m.; **Uxbridge** – Tuesday & Thursday at 10:00 a.m. **Westborough** Sunday at 1:30 p.m. **Briarwood** (closed circuit) – Channel 900 at 11:00 a.m. Sunday