he Church of the Holy Trinit

Rittenhouse Square

The Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II



December 15, 2024

What's Happening This Week:

Morning Prayer is held every weekday at 9:00 am on Facebook.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, December 15	9:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Adult Education Holy Eucharist - The Third Sunday of Advent Refreshments Philadelphia Girls Choir Concert Open Hearts Cafe Meal/Clothing	Church Church Church Church Walnut St.
Monday, December 16	10:00-3:00 7:00 - 9:30	Church Open Choral Arts Philadelphia Rehearsal	Church
Tuesday, December 17	10:00-3:00 4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Church Open Open Hearts Cafe Meal/Clothing Altissimo Arts Holiday Concert feat. Evolve Dance	Walnut St. e Church
Wednesday, December 18	10:00-3:00 12:15 pm	Church Open Advent Organ Meditation	Church
Thursday, December 19	10:00-3:00 12:15 pm	Church Open Healing Service	Prayer Chapel
Friday, December 20	7:30 pm	Piffaro Holiday Concert	Church
Sunday, December 22	9:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm 4:30 pm	Adult Education Holy Eucharist - The Fourth Sunday of Advent Refreshments Open Hearts Cafe Meal/Clothing	Church Church Church Walnut St.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 5:00 pm = Decorate the Church for Christmas!!

PARTICIPANTS

James Otwell & Ali Shott, Lectors
Thomas Lipscomb, Intercessor
Marshall McMain, Acolyte
Boyden Gardner, Streaming
Marshall McMain & Susan Leidy, Usher
Susan Leidy, Refreshments

WELCOME

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE!

OUR VIVID VISION

This was created in 2022 in collaboration with the Rectors, Wardens & Vestry and is intended to describe where we will be in 3 years.

The church is bursting with life. Outside the building, people are talking, resting, and enjoying the weather. Inside, people are coming and going – staff and volunteers connecting and welcoming. Families, students, working professionals, retirees and neighbors mingle with each other, finding resources they need: safety and support, education, and creative outlets. Visitors and members alike find a place to make a difference and share their gifts with each other. The smell of delicious food wafts through the air as the chefs prepare the community meal for the day. Visitors from all over the world are marveling at the beautiful interior of the sanctuary. Worshippers are laughing, singing, praising, and just enjoying being together. The delicate sounds of violin mingle with the robust organ and the echoes of voices. We are more than just a place on the Square. We are an integral part of the neighborhood.

CORE VALUES

INCLUSION/WELCOME

We believe that no one should feel left out or alone. We embrace our differences and respect each person within our community. This allows everyone to bring their unique and authentic gifts to further the mission of the church.

INNOVATION

We are not afraid of trying new things or changing when necessary. If things do not work out, we are open to re-evaluate, learn from our mistakes, and try again.

COLLABORATION

We listen to and support one another, working and evolving together. We build upon each other's strengths and lift up each other's gifts.

COMMUNITY MINDEDNESS

Church is not an individual endeavor, but a community experience. We believe that we cannot each succeed or be whole, unless everyone finds success and wholeness.

CULTURE

JOYFUL

We are hopeful, optimistic, and have fun together. Being part of this community gives us joy, and our joy spreads to others and makes us want to share joy with them.

FEARLESS

We are innovative, purposeful and adaptable. We believe that with God all things are possible and that with prayer and connection to God we will always have enough. We are not afraid of trying new things or of failing. We learn from our mistakes. We reach out to others drawing them in, not waiting for them to find us.

EMBRACING

We love others, because God loves us. This means that we are accepting, welcoming, open, genuine, and empathetic. We speak the truth in love.

ENGAGED

Our connection to this organization is full of energy. We give without expectation of return. We continuously learn about the community and our neighbors and adapt our connections as needed. We all contribute our time, money and skills to make our community better.

Welcome & Parish Notices

Lighting the Advent Wreath - Advent 3

Presider You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;

People The mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of

the field will clap their hands.

Presider: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and abide with us in the Holy

Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Amen.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn 59

Merton



Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

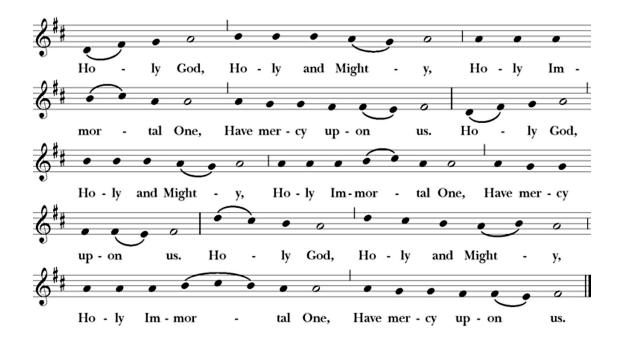
Collect for Purity

Presider

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**.

Trisagion S-100

David Hurd



Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider 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.**

Please be seated for the readings.

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

James Otwell

Reader A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

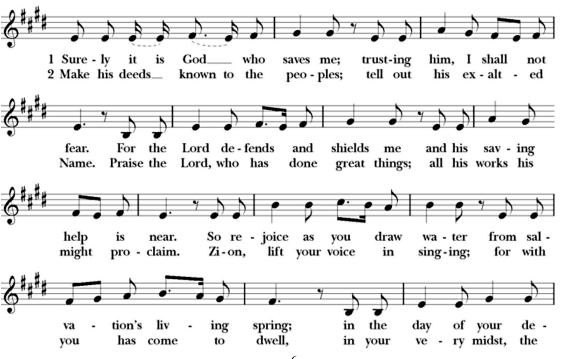
People

Thanks be to God.

Canticle

The First Song of Isaiah

Thomas Merton





Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Ali Shott

Reader A reading from the letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit



Herald, Sound



The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

At the conclusion of the Gospel procession, the people are seated.

The Sermon The Reverend John Gardner

After a period of silence, Please rise in body or in spirit for the Creed.

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.

Prayers of the People, Advent III

Leader

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray. O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the Church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your path.

People Come Lord Jesus and help us discern.

Leader

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

People Come Lord Jesus and redeem us for our life together.

^{*}The word 'catholic' refers to the universal church and not the Roman Catholic church.

Leader

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind, especially all who have asked for our prayer: David, Marti, Miller, Treshawn, Chelby, Evelyn, Jim, Diana, The Glenn Family, Emily, Erika, Michael, Arlene, Thomas, Robert, Barry, Sydney, Sonia, Mindy, Slobodon, Jean, Christopher, James, Patricia, Cari, Richard, Pat, Margaret; that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

People Come Lord Jesus and bring your healing love and mercy to us all.

Leader

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for all who rejoice this week, for those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other joyous occasions, that we all might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus and light our hearts with gladness and joy. People

Leader

Officiant

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer. We pray for those who have died, especially, Edward Yackin.

People Come Lord Jesus and shine your light on all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Christ, hear our earnest prayers and come among us with haste; for we are waiting for you, alone.

People Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Presider

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.

Absolution

Presider 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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Advent Offertory Sentence

Presider In the tender compassion of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,

to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and guide our

feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78-79.

The Offertory

The offerings we give help to support the work this church does, the people who work here, and our programs for the neighborhood. If you wish to help support our amazing programs, you can put something in the plate, text CHT DONATE to 73256 or using the QR code to the right. You can also sign up to give regularly with REALM (www.htrit.org/give).



Offertory Anthem

Rejoice in the Lord alway

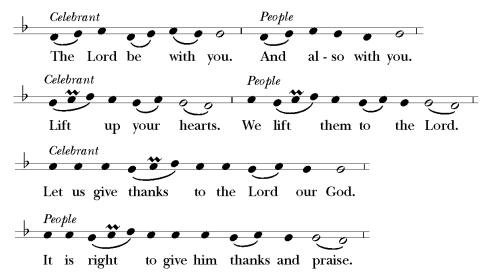
Anonymous

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice;
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen

Please rise in body or in spirit



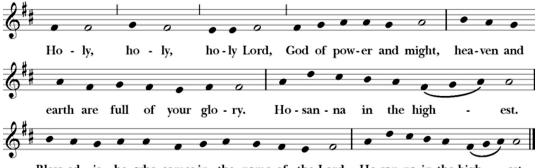
The Great Thanksgiving



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:

The Sanctus S-124 Hurd



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high -

Celebrant 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant

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.

All AMEN.

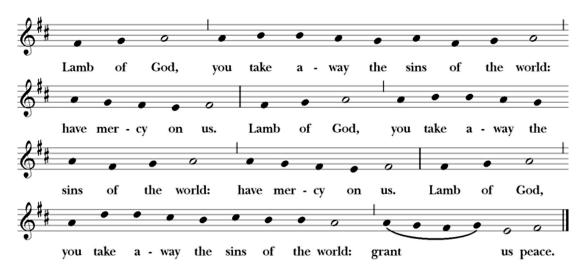
The Lord's Prayer

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

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 Breaking of the Bread Fraction Anthem S-161

Hurd



Invitation to Communion

Celebrant

Come to this table, all who have faith, and all who would like to have more; all who have received this sacrament often and all who have been without for a long time. Christ loves you and invites us to meet him here.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Communion

If you wish to receive communion, please follow the directions of the ushers and go to the altar rail to receive. You can receive bread and/or wine, depending on your preference. If you wish to receive the wine, you can retain your wafer and dip it in the cup or drink directly from the cup. If you need a gluten-free wafer or prefer a blessing, please let the priest know. We will bring communion to those who are more comfortable staying in their pew (please alert an usher).

Communion Hymn 69

St. Mark's, Berkeley



Communion Anthem

Prepare a Place

John Gilbert

Prepare a place for love to dwell; no need for lavish inn or hall, the rudest space, the smallest cell can cradle love so very well. Prepare a way for peace to grow beyond the limits of our fear, define the path for all to know that peace was promised long ago. Prepare a feast for Christ to share; a loaf and cup to feed the poor, to fill the masses from despair; each broken spirit to repair. Prepare a time for all to see the timeless wonder born as truth, a time to risk; a time to be; to ponder God's humanity.

Please rise in body or in spirit

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All

Eternal God, heavenly Father you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be upon you, the Spirit's outpouring be over you, now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn 65

Bereden vag for Herran



The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Prepare the Royal Highway Paul Manz

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Healing Prayer – all who wish to receive prayers for healing for themselves, a loved one or even the world, are invited to john a member of the clergy and/or the healing team in the Prayer Corner (to the right of the altar area) after the service.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you wish to give a memorial or honorary gift and help decorate the church for Christmas you can use the envelope in the back of the church or

TEXT FLOWERS to 73256

ADVENT MEDITATION

December 18 - Wesley Parrott 12:15 pm

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

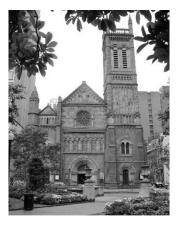
Monday, December 23
5:00 pm - Help Decorate the Church

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm Blessing of the Creche **8:00 pm** The Festival of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 25
10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Christmas Day

Property Update & Request



Over the last several years, we have been addressing the physical needs and neglect of our buildings and grounds. We have re-stuccoed and repaired the wall next to the parking lot. We have replaced the roof on all our buildings, including the skylight that is above our chancel and beautiful Tiffany lay light. We have replaced broken sidewalks, the trees for our tree pits, and contracted with Indego bikes to have one of the most used stations in the city. We have repaired, repainted, and replaced the railings.

The Next Phase

We are now shifting to address the envelope of the church buildings and to find ways to make our buildings more accessible to everyone. We are working with Klien & Hoffman on a plan to restore the outside over the next 5-10 years. The next phase of this project is to secure, repair and repaint the windows. We have already begun this phase on the north (Walnut St) side of the building. We hope to continue this project with a year-by-year repair and repainting program encircling the building.



Request for Funding

The first phase is possible in part because of the personal giving of Vestry members, who have individually contributed. We are no reaching out to the community – to YOU – to help fund this project. The Vestry is hoping to raise \$35,000 for this project from the congregation and the community.

We have already raised almost \$12,000. A generous donor challenges you to match their generosity of \$10,000 to reach our goal.

Questions?

We welcome your questions, your participation and your contributions to the project.

Give Now

To give to this project, you give online: https://onrealm.org/CHT/-/form/give/restore or Text "CHT RESTORE" to 73256.

Adult Education - Walk in Love

Please Note: You do not have to come to every class – if you are interested in learning more about the topic, please join us on the day we are discussing!!

Schedule for Dec/Jan: SUNDAYS @ 9:30 a.m.

December 22 - Both in Mind and Body - Confession

December 29 - Christmas Break

Jan 5 – Both in Mind and Body – Healing
Jan 12 – For the Benefit of Your Holy Church – Ordination
January 19 – Accept the Prayers of Your People- The Daily Office and Daily Prayer
January 26 All Times Are Your Seasons - The Church Calendar and the Liturgical Year

Schedule for Dec/Jan: WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 p.m.

December 18 - Grow in Grace Through the Years - Marriage

December 25, January 1 - Christmas Break

January 8 – Both in Mind and Body - Confession

Jan 15 – For the Benefit of Your Holy Church – Ordination

January 22 – Accept the Prayers of Your People- The Daily Office and Daily Prayer

January 29 – No Class (Rachel will be out of town)

Church of the Holy Trinity, Staff

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, Rector

The Rev. John Gardner, Rector

Benjamin Leiby, Interim Organist-Choirmaster

Margaret DiPinto, Interim Director of Operations

Inaara Shiraz, Director of Communications

Karen Majer, Rentals & House Manager

Demetrius Swinson, Custodian & Superman

Lawrence Miller, Therese Tiger, Molly Hebert-Wilson, Reception

Nabayah Parker, Child Care Worker

Boyden Gardner, Streaming Services

Robbin McCarthy, Deacon-in-Training

Dr. Stephen Framil, Musician-in-Residence

Dr. John French, Organist-Choirmaster emeritus

The Choir of Holy Trinity

Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Samuel Higgins, Thomas Kneeland, Cole McIlquham, John Miles, Mike O'Bryan, Aimee Pilgermayer, Eddie Rubeiz, Julianna Smith, and Amanda Staub

Church of the Holy Trinity, Vestry

Brian Conroy, Phillip Duffy, Alyssa Force, Monica Heuer, Margaret Hughes, Simson Hui, Susan Leidy, Martha Lipscomb, Greg Maughan, James Otwell, Ali Shott, & Emily Stromberg

