

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

Christmas Day: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10:00 am
Holy Eucharist, Rite II



December 25, 2024

WELCOME

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE!

We ask that you **turn off or silence your Cell Phone** during the service. Thank you!

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. Worshipers 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.

What's Happening This Week:

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday, December 26		<i>Church & Offices Closed</i>	
Friday, December 27		<i>Church & Offices Closed</i>	
Sunday, December 29	11:00 am	Holy Eucharist	Church
	12:00 pm	Refreshments	Church
	4:30 pm	Open Hearts Cafe Meal/Clothing	Walnut St.
Monday, December 30	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
December 31-Jan 2		<i>Church and Offices Closed</i>	

***SAVE THE DATE: NEXT Sunday January 5, 2025 after church
Take Down Decorations***

PARTICIPANTS

Robbin McCarthy & Andy Gutknecht, *Lectors*
Robbin McCarthy, *Intercessor*
Monica Heuer, *Usher*
Boyden Gardner, *Streaming*

Welcome & Parish Notices

Introit

Break forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Sebastian Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning.
 O shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning:
 this child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
 the pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn 83

Adeste fideles

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant 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.**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:6-12

Robbin McCarthy

Reader A reading from the Prophet 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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body or in spirit.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

Andy Gutknecht

Reader A reading from 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 The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Sequence Hymn 88

England's Lane

1 Sing, O sing, this bless-ed morn, un-to us a child is born,
 2 God from God, and Light from Light, comes with mer-cies in-fi-nite,
 3 God with us, Em-man-u-el, deigns for ev-er now to dwell;
 4 God comes down that we may rise, lift-ed by him to the skies;
 5 O re-new us, Lord, we pray, with thy Spi-rit day by day,

1 un-to us a son is given, God him-self comes down from heaven.
 2 from high heaven he comes to earth, one with us in hu-man birth.
 3 he on Ad-am's fall-en race sheds the full-ness of his grace.
 4 Christ is born for us that we born a-gain in him may be.
 5 that we ev-er one may be with the Fa-ther and with thee.

Refrain

Sing, O sing, this bless-ed morn, Je-sus Christ to-day is born.

The Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord 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, Lord Christ.**

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

After a period of silence, please rise in body or in spirit.

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.

The Prayers of the People Christmas Day

Robbin McCarthy

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
God, on this holy day your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

People **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Leader The Holy Family were turned away, finding no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love all who have no place to call home, and all who live in poverty.

People **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy day Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

People **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy day the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in the Middle East and in all the world. We pray especially for our siblings in faith, who gather tonight to celebrate Hanukkah.

People **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to share the glory of God and the saving love of Christ with the world.

People **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy day strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

People **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy day heaven brushes against the earth, and earth is raised to touch heaven. Hold in your hand all for whom memorials of flowers have been given, all who mourn, and all who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

People **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant God, on this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

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

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

Celebrant 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Anthem

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Carl Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said; sweet, newborn Babe, how frail, and in a manger bed; a still small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare: a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how love was born and burned its way into my heart: unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Offertory Hymn 80

Vom Himmel hoch



1 From heaven a - bove to earth I come to bring good
2 to you this night is born a child of Ma - ry,
3 This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your
4 The bless - ing which the Fa - ther planned the Son holds



news to ev - ery - one! Glad tid - ings of great
chos - en vir - gin mild; this new - born child of
sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your
in his in - fant hand, that in his king - dom



joy I bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sa - vior be and from all sin will set you free.
bright and fair, you may with us his glo - ry share.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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.

Sanctus S-125

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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


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.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

David Hurd



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our
Pass - o - ver is sa - cri - ficed for us; there - fore
let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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).



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall
 3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The



glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,



And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,



And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us



A stall be - come a shrine. _____ 2 This
 To pave his king - dom come. _____ 3 Yet
 God's love re - fused a - gain. _____ 4 But
 The worlds are rec - on - ciled. _____



Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant May Christ fill you with his joy and peace this day; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen

Dismissal Hymn 105

God Rest You Merry



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heav - en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



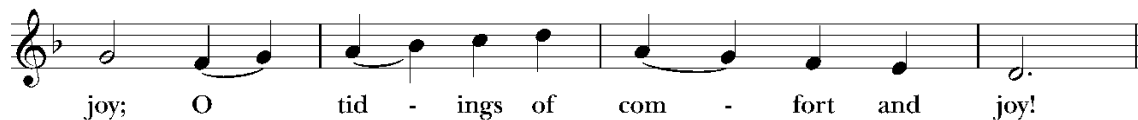
re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



Refrain
O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata on 'God rest ye merry'

Alfred V. Fedak

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The Christmas flowers in the Church are offered to the glory of God...

by Ashley and Ray Del Bianco

In Memory of Bob & Judy Reiff

by Alyssa & Farzad Force

In Memory of Jeannetta Drysdale Lee Burpee & W. Atlee Burpee, Jr.

by Murray Richards Richey

In Memory of Anne Mitchell

by Murray Richards Richey

In Memory of Mary Anne Foreman & James B. Griffith

by Sally Griffith

In Memory of our Loved Ones & In Honor of our Friends

by Peg Mertz

In Loving Memory of Adam & Edna Cunningham

Adam Cunningham, Jr.

by Reaucheane Williams

In Memory of Joan Bensinger

In Memory of Mitzi Cooper

In Memory of Bill Kelly

by Don McKenzie

In Honor of our Children

by The Revs. John and Rachel Gardner

Church of the Holy Trinity, Staff

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, *Rector*

The Rev. John Gardner, *Rector*

Benjamin Leiby, *Interim Organist-Choirmaster*

Robyn Schnieders, *Director of Operations & Administration*

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*

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, Thomas Kneeland, 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



**THE CHURCH OF
THE HOLY TRINITY**
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE