The Church of the Holy Trinity Rittenhouse Square

The First Sunday after Christmas

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II



December 29, 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. 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.

What's Happening This Week:

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

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, December 29	12:00 pm	Holy Eucharist Refreshments Open Hearts Café	Church Church Centennial Room
Monday, December 30	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Tuesday, December 31	3:00 pm	Church Open Open Hearts Café Choral Arts Concert	Centennial Room Church
December 31-Jan 2	Church an	nd Offices Closed	
Sunday, January 5	12:00 pm	Holy Eucharist Refreshments Take Down Christmas Decor Open Hearts Café	Church ations Church Centennial Room

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

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

Margaret Dowling & Jeannie Welsh - Readers
Frank LaMay - Intercessor
Quinn Gardner - Acolyte
David Otwell & Simson Hui - Usher
Martha Lipscomb - Refreshments
Boyden Gardner - Streaming

Welcome & Parish Notices

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn 82

Divinum mysterium



Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

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.**

Gloria - Hymn 421

Allein Gott in der Höh



The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

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**.

Please be seated for the readings.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson: 61:10-62:3 Margaret Dowling

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The antiphon is sung once by the choir and then by all. The choir sings the verses and all join on the antiphon as indicated.



- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; * praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; * he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; * he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, * and his word runs very swiftly.

Antiphon

- 17 He gives snow like wool; * he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; * who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; * he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, * his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; * to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

Antiphon

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Jeannie Welsh

Reader A reading from the letter to the Galatians.

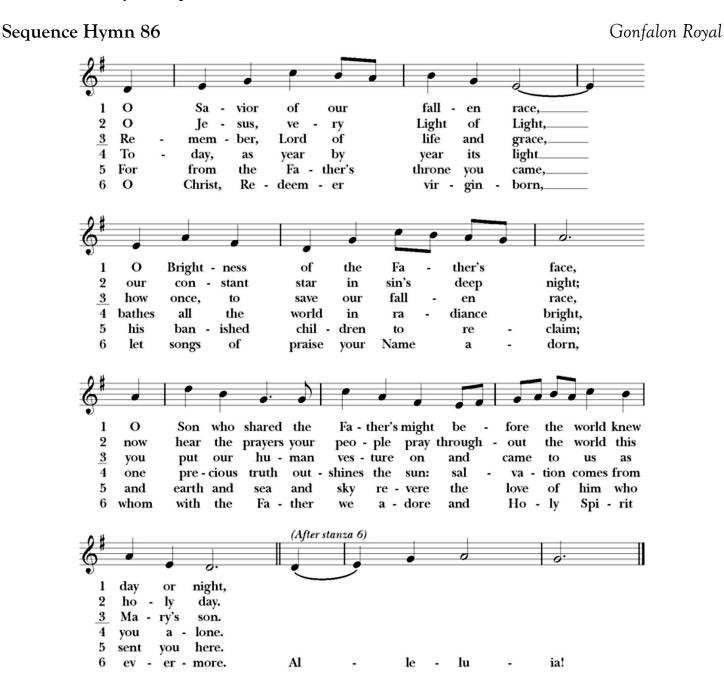
Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.



The Gospel: John 1:1-18

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Presider 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. John 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 Season

Frank LaMay

Leader:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

God, at Christmas 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

At Christmas Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world, especially those on our prayer list: Kathy, Lisa, Katie, Bob, Evelyn, Ruben, Patricia, Damon, Lexi, Arthea, David, Marti, Miller, Treshawn, Chelby, Evelyn, Jim, Diana, The Glenn Family, Sydney, Sonia, Mindy, Cari, Richard, Pat, Margaret;

People

Holy God, hear our prayer.

Leader At Christmas the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those

who work for peace and justice in all the world.

People Holy God, hear our prayer.

Leader At Christmas 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 At Christmas 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 At Christmas heaven brushes against the earth, and earth is raise 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.

Presider God, at Christmas 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

Presider 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

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

Offertory Sentence

Presider

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

Offertory Anthem

The Glory of the Father

Egil Hovland

The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.

In the beginning was the Word, The Word was with god.

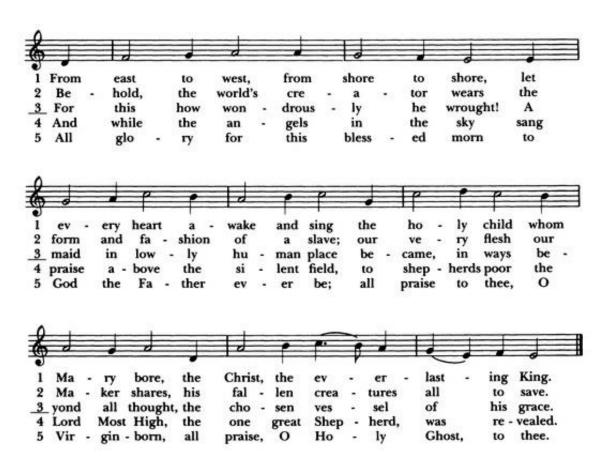
In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.

He came to his own, and his own received him not.

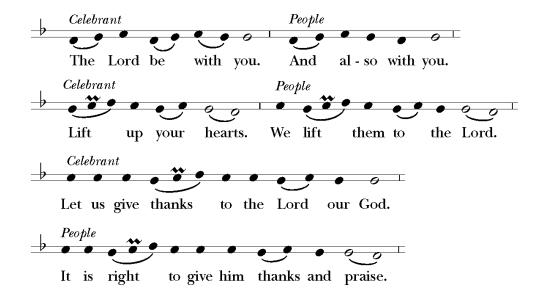
Please rise in body or in spirit.

Offertory Hymn 77

Vom Himmel kan der Engel Schar



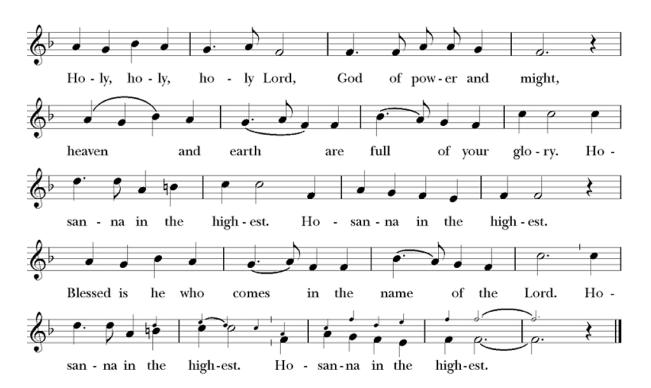
The Great Thanksgiving



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 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



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:

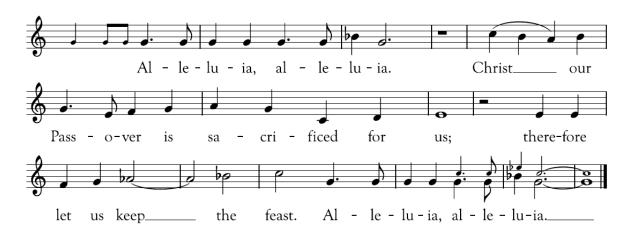
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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



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).

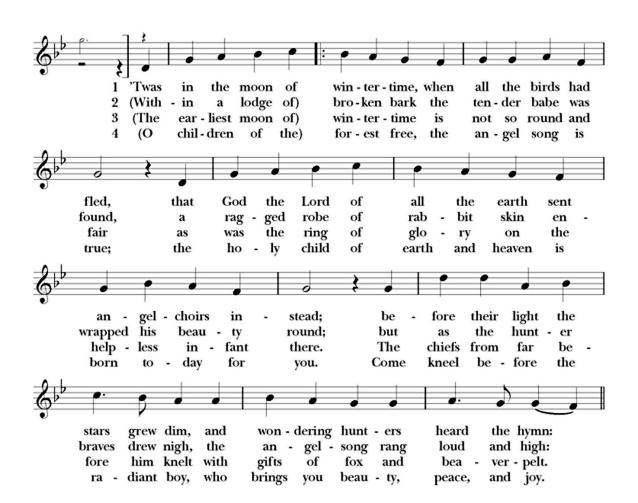
O sweet was the song the Virgin sand when she to Bethlehem Judah came, and was delivered of a son, and Jesus was his name. Lullaby.

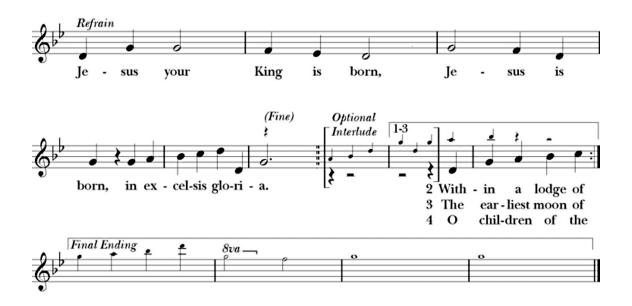
O sweet babe, sang she, my son. And so a Savior is born, who was given from on high to visit us that were forlorn. Lullaby, and Jesus was his name. And sweet was the song she sang.

Communion Hymn 114

Une jeune pucelle







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; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**



The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude In dulci jubilo Leo Sowerby

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

Thanksgiving for Richard, Loren & Alexander Kagen In Memory of Nancy & Charlie Simpson by Shreve Simson

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 Reauchean 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

Robbin McCarthy, Deacon-in-Training

Benjamin Leiby, Interim Organist-Choirmaster

Robyn Schnieders, Director of Admin & Operations

Inaara Shiraz, Director of Communications & Development

Karen Majer, Rentals & House Manager

Margaret DiPinto, Interim Director of Operations

Demetrius Swinson, Assistant to the Dir of Operations

Therese Tiger, Molly Hebert-Wilson, Lawrence Miller Reception

Nabayah Parker, Child Care Worker

Boyden & Connor 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