

TRINITY CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF ASBURY PARK, NJ



Christmas Eve 2025 at 4:00PM

A Celebration of Christ's Nativity

Carols, The Christmas Story and Eucharist (Mass)

especially planned for young children, their families and the young at heart

Prelude Christmas Carol Variations for flute and piano

The service begins with the blessing of the creche.

Blessing of the Crèche

All who can, please stand

Celebrant: The word became flesh and dwelt among us;

People: **And we beheld Christ's glory.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord, by the song of the angels you revealed your birth to your own people, and by the leading of a star you revealed your glory to strangers. Teach us to know you now, and to make you known to all. **Amen.**

Processional Carol "O come, all ye faithful" (Hymn 83, stanzas 1-3)

Adeste fidelis

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
o come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be the one, Holy and Living God.

All reply **And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect for the Nativity

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Christmas Pageant

Welcome to the Trinity Christmas Pageant

Please be seated

The Annunciation

Sung seated

Carol "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Hymn 56 stanza 1)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



The Angel Visits Joseph in a Dream



The Visitation

Carol "O little town of Bethlehem" (Hymn 79, stanza 1)

St. Louis

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.



The Nativity

Carol "Away in a manger" (Words: Anon; Tune: James R. Murray (1841/2 – 1905), stanzas 1 and 2)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where
he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.



The Angels Appear to the Shepherds

Carol "Angels we have heard on high" (Hymn 96, stanzas 1 & 2)

Gloria

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.



The Shepherds Visit the Manger

Carol "Silent Night"

Stille Nacht

All who can, please kneel for the hymn. As the lights dim, you may light your candles.

1 Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!



The Visitation of the Wise

Carol "We three Kings" (verse 1)

Three Kings of Orient

1. We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!



The World Rings Out with Joy

Carol “Hark the herald angels sing” (Hymn 87 stanza 1)

Mendelssohn

1. Hark, the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

All who can, please stand

Carol “Joy to the World!” (Hymn 100 stanzas 1 and 2)

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Meditation

The Rev. Chase Danford

All who can please stand

The Prayers of the People

Adapted from the Church of England’s Common Worship

Leader

Let us pray to Jesus our Savior.

Christ, born in a stable,
give shelter to all who are without a home,
Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of your kingdom to all who weep.
Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose birth makes all things new,
grant us forgiveness of our sins and the grace of the Holy Spirit.
Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

**Jesus, Savior, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant concludes with a collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen.**

The Peace

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Please be seated

The Offering

Offertory Music Medley of "Sing Noel", "Still, Still, Still", and "Ukrainian Bell Carol"

The Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving

All who can please stand

Eucharistic Prayer B, Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 perfectly human 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. 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:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant proceeds We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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, according to his command, O God,

Celebrant and People

**We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father (or Mother/Parent), **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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation

During Communion

Hymn 115 "What Child is this?"

Greensleeves

At the Communion



The sacrament of Holy Communion is a profound and central part of our worship. In it we receive God's promise to set aside all that separates us; we strengthen our union with Christ and one another; and we experience a foretaste of the time when all creation will share the feast God has prepared for us. All who seek a deeper relationship with God in Jesus Christ are invited to join us at the Lord's Table.

Follow the usher's direction to communion. Receive the bread in open palm. Wine is available in the silver chalice, and non-alcoholic grape juice in the wooden cup. You may receive the wine by taking a sip or touching your wafer to the wine. For the grape juice, please only touch the wafer to the juice. If you would like a blessing in lieu of communion, indicate so by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask the clergy for one if desired. Please let the usher know if you need the Celebrant to come to your pew to administer communion.

Prayer after Communion

All who can, please stand.

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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, 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.**

Carol "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

African American Spiritual

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold through-out the heavens
there shown a holy light. _____
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. _____
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

Dismissal

People's Response: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude *Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her* (BWV 700)

J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

A Special Thank you to Tonight's Guest Instrumentalists:

Dr. James Balmer, organ
Bruno Mayoria, flute
Pete Saleh, percussion

Trinity Church Vision Statement

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God...For if we love one another, God abides in us, and God's love will be perfected in us." (1 John 4:7, 12)

Love is at the very core of Trinity Church. Through our faith and ministry, we seek to share Jesus Christ's unconditional, revolutionary love for all of God's creation and people. We demonstrate love in action by respecting the dignity of all, practicing radical hospitality, standing in solidarity with the marginalized, advocating for peace and justice, dismantling structural racism and every system of oppression, embracing inclusivity, maintaining our sacred space as a spiritual and physical sanctuary, and pursuing ecological sustainability. Strengthened by joyful worship, prayer, lifelong spiritual formation, stewardship of resources, pastoral care, and fellowship, we commit to follow Jesus in the Way of Love.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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