

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE

WE ARE HONORED THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR THIS JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S BIRTH.

At Trinity, you are among friends and spiritual family members, we hope that you feel welcomed in this holy place. To those who have been away from your spiritual home for some time, we say "Welcome home!" And if this is your first visit with us, we pray that you will be blessed by the worship, the music, the fellowship, and by the Holy Spirit.

To one and all we hope that you will return soon to worship the One who loves, forgives, and accepts us, wherever and whoever we are.

-Rev'd Jordan Bishop

Trinity Episcopal Church is a welcoming, worshipping community, where all belong, are loved, respected, and embrace Jesus' example of loving, serving, and seeking justice for all.

Tonight's liturgy will be about one hour.

If you're new here, please fill out the welcome card located in the green envelope in the pew.

We all say the words in **BOLD**.

New here? Get connected with us! Scan the code below to find out more information.



TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
LANDER, WYOMING



Prelude

Julie Lefevre and Margaret Procter

Piano Prelude:

In the Bleak Midwinter by Gustav Holst arr. by John Leavitt

Guitar Suite:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Cherry Tree Carol
Holly Hill

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Within our darkest night, you kindle a fire that never dies away.

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ, joining our voices with the joyful song of his mother Mary.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For you, O Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. You have shown strength with your arm, and scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children for ever.



Advent Hymn - Within Our Darkest Night

Taizé

With-in our dark-est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er
 Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le feu qui ne s'é -

dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way. With-in our dark-est night, you
 teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al -

kin - dle the fire that nev-er dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way.
 lu - me le feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais.

Am B Em Am B Em Am B

Opening Hymn - #83 - O Come All Ye Faithful

red Hymnal 1982

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,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

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;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

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;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

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.

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

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

Acclamation and Collect of Purity

The Lord is near at hand.

O come, let us adore him.

Behold, He comes, the desire of all nations.

And the house of the Lord shall be filled with His glory.

The Law was given by Moses.

Grace and truth have come by Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

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

S280 red Hymnal 1982

said together:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray, saying today's collect together:

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 96

O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.*

**Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.*

**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.*

**Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.*

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.*

**Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.*

**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Gospel Hymn - #27- Away in a Manger

LEVAS



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close by me for



Je - sus laid down His sweet head, The stars in the sky — looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes, I love thee, Lord Je - sus, Look
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev'd Jordan Bishop

(followed by a time of silence)

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus.

God of our Salvation, we come to you on this wondrous night to gather in praise, to lift up your name with friend, family, and stranger. In the beginning, your creative work began with a word, and tonight, your creation continues with the Word made flesh.

Like Mary, we ponder these things in our hearts, and wonder how you could love us so much as to actually become one of us, one with us. We remember these stories this evening that remind us of your steadfast love, that affirm that you have never, and will never, give up on your children. We thank you for your steadfast presence in our lives!

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And yet, even on this night on which we celebrate the fulfillment of love, we recognize that there are many who are still waiting for fulfillment:

- the fulfillment of adequate food and shelter...
- the fulfillment of peace and the end of violence...
- the fulfillment of reprieve from the grip of grief...
- the fulfillment of a restoration of a broken relationship...
- the fulfillment of a renewing of heart, mind, or body...
- the fulfillment of healing from a chronic illness...
- the fulfillment of an end to substance abuse...

Giving God, give us the courage to do your work in the world and to share the peace coming to us in the manger this evening.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray this night especially for those who have traveled to be here...

for those who have lost loved ones in the past year...

for those who struggle with mental illness...

for those who fight alcoholism's onslaught...

for those who will be traveling in the coming days and weeks...

for all those who work on Christmas...

for those who cannot make it home for Christmas...

Restore us and make your face to shine that we might be saved.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

This evening we pray especially for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, for all the people in Gaza and the West Bank in Palestine, and for Israel. That you would bring your peace and comfort to all in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially Joanne, Hilda, Anthony, Whitney, Cal, Baby Vasquez, Barbara, Larry, and Diane that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Let us now offer our prayers for our own needs and those of others either silently or aloud.

Your own prayers may be added here.

Celebrant-

In all that we do and in all that we are, send your Spirit to send us forward with the majesty of this night and to share the grace we find with everyone we encounter. **Amen.**

THE TABLE

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. From His fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. Let us now offer our gifts in thanksgiving for God's greatest gift to us—His Son, Jesus Christ.

Offertory Hymn #89 - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

red Hymnal 1982

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King.” The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

All things come of thee, O Lord. **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Kocher and Wells

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, you shape your very life to create and restore and enjoy us forever.

We gather around your altar like those who gathered at your Son's manger, longing for you to reassemble men and women, kings and working people, Jews and Gentiles, heaven, and earth at the place where our humanity and your divinity meet.

You had too much love to keep it to yourself; and though we took up arms against you and one another, you disarmed us in coming into our midst as a defenseless baby. As his arms were tied in swaddling clothes, so later his hands were nailed to the cross; yet you made his birth the foretaste of our redemption and his death the gateway to resurrection life.

You give us such joy and peace in your company that our hearts join the angels in the Christmas sky and around your eternal throne, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus

S130 red Hymnal 1982

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes _____

_____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary’s arms, you place these gifts of bread and wine in our hands. Sanctify your church to be as fragile and tender and true as the infant Savior.

Send down your Holy Spirit, that this bread of wheat gathered from the fields and this cup of grapes gathered from the vineyards may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, “Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” After supper he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

God who exalts the humble and humbles the exalted, as you drew the magi to the place of your epiphany, call us to yourself, and bring your creation to its consummation. Lift your whole church, living and departed, to the vision of your glory, once made flesh in a humble family, now exalted and reigning with justice and mercy.

In this banquet restore us in your image, surround us with your company, and prepare us for your freedom, after the pattern of your Son, through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. All are welcome at this table.

You now are invited to come forward to the altar rail and receive communion. If you wish to receive wine, please take a chalice as you come forward. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers available upon request.

*As you return to your seat please place your chalice in the basket provided.
Please do not throw your chalice in the trash.*

Communion Meditation

Margaret Procter



Hymn - #111 - "Silent Night, Holy Night"

red 1982 Hymnal

Your personal candles are now lit.

- 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,
sleep in heavenly peace.

- 2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

- 3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Announcements

Please note the announcements are already in the back of the bulletin.

Those having both birthdays and anniversaries this week are invited to come forward at this time, together –

Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries – (together) O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional -#100 - Joy to the world!

red Hymnal 1982

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,

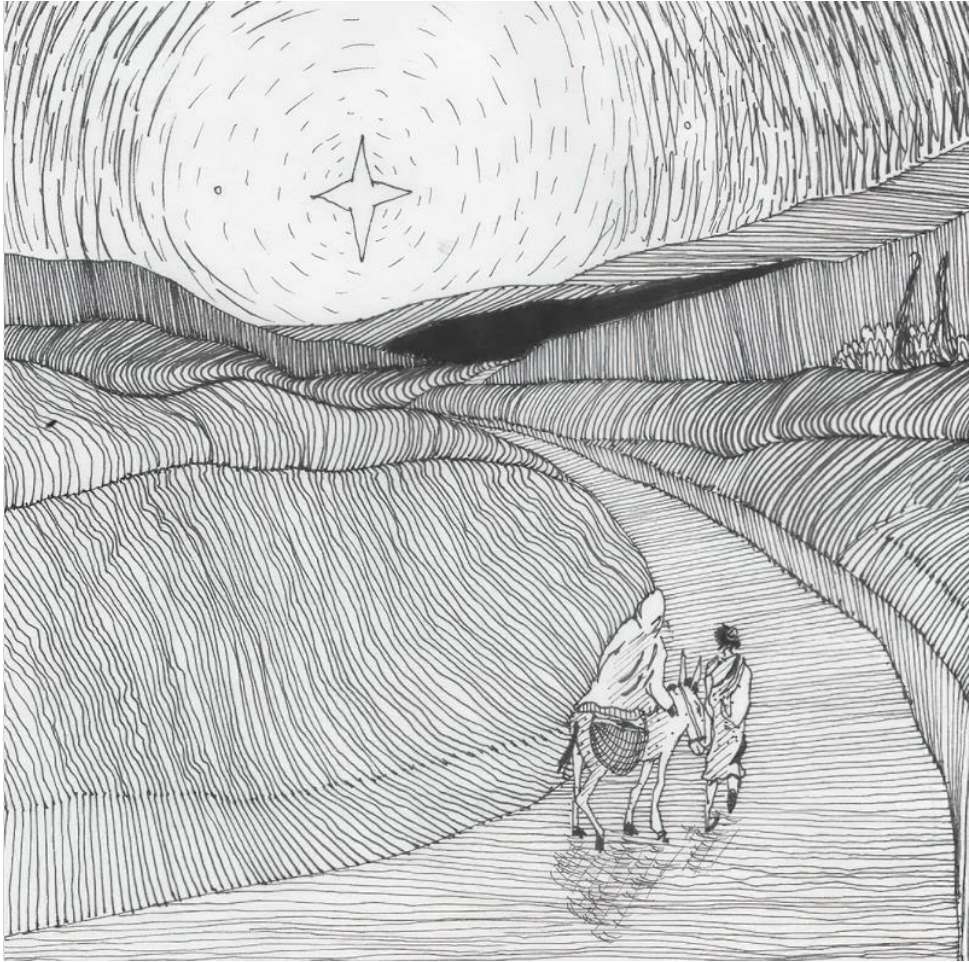
Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Dismissal

Let us go in stillness into this sacred night. Immanuel, God is with us!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!





A Special Thanks To:

Helen Gordon, Altar Guild
Judy Sutt, Altar Guild

Julie Lefevre, Pianist
Margaret Procter, Guitarist
Dakota Metzger, Vocalist
Garold Whisler, Music Director

Helen Gordon, Lector
Barbara Martin, Lector

Shalini Forbis, Acolyte
Rev'd Gail Duba, Celebrant
Rev'd Jordan Bishop, Homilist

Christmas Eve in History

December 24 is the anniversary of the “Christmas Eve Truce,” which took place in 1914 along the Western front during World War I. German and British troops had been locked in brutal trench warfare, but on Christmas Eve, sounds of “Stille Nacht” were heard rising from the German side, and some Brits sang back “The First Noel.” Both sides tentatively raised candles and lanterns above the parapets, and the truce began.

The soldiers met between the trenches in “no man’s land,” shaking hands, exchanging small gifts (tobacco, alcohol, chocolate), and even playing impromptu games of soccer. In the early morning of December 26, the men returned to their trenches, picked up their weapons — and hostilities resumed. But to this day, the tales of the truce are still told, story after story from up and down the Western front.

December 24 is also the anniversary of “Silent Night” first being performed at the Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, Austria, in 1818. The young priest there had written the lyrics as a poem two years earlier, and as Christmas Eve approached, the story goes, the church’s pipe organ fell into disrepair. Desperate to avoid a Christmas Eve Mass without music, the young priest hurriedly asked the choir director to write a tune for the poem, and the two performed the simple song as a duet in the Mass (some say a capella, some say accompanied by a guitar) — to the congregation’s delight. The song became a sensation, and today resounds in some 300 languages around the world.

December 24 is also the anniversary of the famous “Earthrise” photograph, taken by the astronauts on the Apollo 8 mission in 1968, the first to reach and orbit the Moon. As they circled the Moon, they had the largest television audience in history — and they decided to read from the Book of Genesis, taking turns as they read the first ten verses: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness...” As the spacecraft orbited around to the dark side of the Moon and out of radio contact, they ended the broadcast this way: “We close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless you all — all of you on the good Earth.”

December 24 is also the anniversary of the first radio broadcast ever, made by Canadian-born electrician and chemist Reginald Fessenden on the coast of Massachusetts in 1906. He opened the broadcast with a short speech, played “O Holy Night” on his violin, read from the Gospel of Luke, and ended with “Merry Christmas.” Ships out on the Atlantic reported receiving the broadcast from miles away.

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honor & truth were trampled to scorn—
Yet here did the Savior make His home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn —
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

— Madeleine L'Engle, “The Risk of Birth”

Announcements

Coming Up at Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday, Dec 29 – 9:30am - Service of Lessons and Christmas Carols
Monday, Dec 30, Jan 6, 13- 8am - Men's Breakfast
Thursday, Jan 2 – 9:30am – Women of TEC coffee
Thursday, Jan 2 – 2pm - Help fill backpacks at North School
Sunday, Jan 5 – 9:30am – Epiphany Sunday - Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, Jan 8 – 12:30pm – Community Blood Drive
Sunday, Jan 12 – 9:30am – First Sunday after the Epiphany
Tuesday, Jan 14 - 8am - Morning Prayer (No morning prayer Dec 24, 31, Jan 7)
Thursday, Jan 16 – 6pm – Women of TEC Ladies Night
Friday, Jan 17 – 3:30pm – Trinity helps with Lander Community Meal
Sunday, Jan 19 – 9:30am – Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Monday, Jan 20 – 7pm – Contemplative Prayer

Prayer Requests

Joanne, Hilda, Anthony, Whitney, Cal, Baby Vasquez, Barbara, Larry, and Diane
(Please email trinitylndr@gmail.com to add to the prayer list.)

Rector:

Rev'd Jordan Bishop
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Give Online:



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