Tríníty Lutheran Church Brewster, Ny





WELCOME as we gather in the name of God! Whether we are physically present with one another or gathering remotely, we know that Christ is truly present in our midst.

We welcome our visitors today. If you are looking for a church home and want to know more about living together as Christians, please contact Pastor Boyd during the week.

If you know of others who are in need of signs of God's love and grace, who are curious and/or questioning, who would like to experience the peace of Christ – please invite them to join us for worship in person or through our social media channels. They may also contact the church office (trinlutheranoffice@yahoo.com) and/or Pastor Jen (revjedyer1@yahoo.com).

You are invited to worship with us each week. There is a spoken inperson service on Thursdays at 12 noon and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. as well as via Facebook Live on Trinity's Facebook page. Services may also be viewed on Comcast channel 21 at 11 am (note, they are a week behind). The service will be posted later on our YouTube page. The weekly bulletin is posted on our website:

 Website:
 http://trinitybrewsterny.org

 Facebook:
 https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Lutheran-Church-Brewster-NY-160570420670756.

 YouTube:
 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEBfzqqPTuf8fe3PiPr21gA?view_as=subscriber

PARENTS: Please help your children follow the worship service, including standing up with the assembly. Thank you.

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INTRODUCTION:

The prophet Isaiah draws on beautiful creation imagery to remind God's people that God's essence is eternal, bringing them relief, confidence and comfort. The temporal is precious in God's eyes—so precious that God uses it as the primary vessel of what is eternal.

+ GATHER +

Prelude: Prelude and Intermezzo in C George Mursell Garrett

Welcome and Announcements

THE ASSEMBLY STANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are like grass, we wither and fade. **God is eternal, God's word endures forever.** Still, God loves us, ephemera though we are. **In divine mystery, God chose to come among us.** Not as some indelible being, but as a human. **Like grass, that withers and fades.** God chose this frail and fragile form **In profound love and solidarity with us.** We do not have to understand it. **We need only stand in quiet awe of God's presence.**

CONFESSION

Humbly coming before you, precious Lord, we offer our whole selves, seeking your grace and hoping in your steadfast love

Silence for reflection and self-examination

O God, you are our shepherd, gathering and tending, leading and feeding, protecting, yet we confess that we wonder where you've been. We thought we had an understanding, God, that you would protect us, that no harm would come to us, that you would give us an abundance... We confess that we don't know how to reconcile those beliefs with the real world.

We wanted your promise to mean everything would be easy and good,

and we could hope without difficulty,

have peace without effort to make it,

and community without the need to think much about them.

And now we confess that we aren't sure how to speak your good news,

since we see so little evidence of it in the headlines.

Forgive us for trusting more in our own preferences and traditions and power structures,

and show us true stability in your word that stands forever.

Forgive us for our unwillingness to shout your promise from the mountaintops,

and give us courage to face our fear of feeling foolish so that we can participate in your coming kingdom.

Forgive us for wanting to keep your promise to ourselves,

and bring us together with your people that together we might help each other through the shadowed valleys,

encourage one another up the mountainsides,

and recognize your glory revealed in a peaceful community we could never have imagined. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sin. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and be strengthened in all goodness given through the grace of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: All Earth Is Hopeful ELW 266

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: This, the labor of people who struggle to see How God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell; "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; She conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth Restores hope and courage to children of this earth. Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; New highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live In our world; he is present, in neighbors we see Our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taule, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Music: Alberto Taule Spanish text and tune © 1993 and tr. © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Peace

In the wilderness, where it's hard to find our way, God is coming. On the mountaintop, where we shout and hope to be heard, God is coming. In the valley, where shadows threaten to overtake us, God is coming. God's glory shall be revealed, and all people will see it together.

~The second candle can be lit~

Mighty and Tender God, You are always looking for a way to redeem your creation, **any road to come to us and bring us back to you.** When there seems no way, we pray you will re-shape, break down and build up, **molding a brand new way even in the midst of the wilderness in which we find ourselves.** However stuck we may feel, we trust all will give way to your eternal Word, even now made flesh to be your Way for us, the Prince of Peace in whose name we pray. Amen.

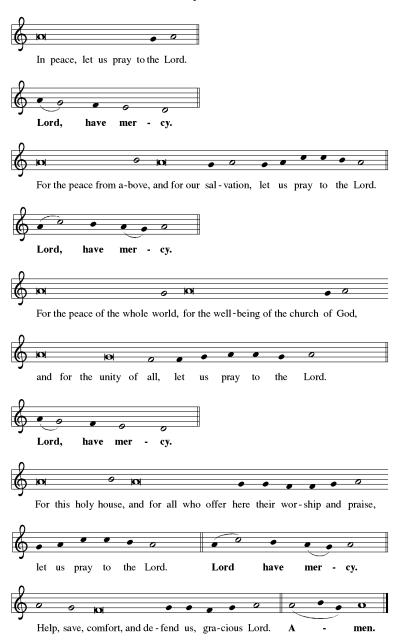
Let us sing of that promise with the second verse of "O Come, O Come Emanuel"

Sing O Come, O Come Emanuel ELW #257 (vs. 2 only)

O Come, O Wisdom from on high, Embracing all things far and nigh: In strength and beauty come and stay; Teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Kola, 1710; tr. Composite Music: French processional, 15th cent. Test sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A. Kyrie



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, You comfort us in our worry and our sorrows. You promise to restore us now and eternally. Sustain us in our waiting during this Advent season and always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE ASSEMBLY IS SEATED

Children's Sermon & Song

Pastor Jennifer Boyd

"He Came Down" ELW #253, vs. 2

He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace; Hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949 Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

+ WORD +

READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,

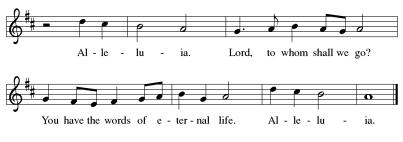
says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; sav to the cities of Judah. 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him: his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God; Word of Life Thanks be to God

THE ASSEMBLY STANDS

Gospel Acclamation



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GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-4

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

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

THE ASSEMBLY IS SEATED

SERMON

Pastor Jennifer Boyd

THE ASSEMBLY STANDS

HYMN OF THE DAY: Comfort, Comfort Now My People ELW 256

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551 All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body. and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In anticipation of the coming messiah, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you call us through the prophets to prepare the way of Jesus. Make our hearts ready to receive your most precious gift. God of Promise, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all wilderness and direct us to the care and preservation of national parks and other wild spaces, that all might have the opportunity to experience their beauty. God of Promise, **hear our prayer.**

You do not call the equipped, but equip the called. Prepare all new leaders with everything they need to serve with humility and commitment. God of Promise, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold in your healing arms all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pause to pray especially for those we name now, aloud or in our hearts.... (*pause*). We also lift up in prayer: **Pamela, Karen, Maryann, Hayden, Shaun, Madeline, Carleen, Thomas, Shannon, Dennis, Megan and Ed and for those who have no one to name them and those who do not know Christ's name.** Strengthen and comfort them through your boundless love. God of Promise, hear our prayer.

Equip scientists and medical workers who strive to keep major public health threats at bay, that all might live in safe and healthy communities. God of Promise, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with gratitude the saints who taught us to prepare the way of Jesus in our lives and our churches. Keep us mindful of their example as we work to get ready for the coming Christmas celebrations. God of Promise, **hear our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered silently, aloud or online in the comments.

Pastor: We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, offering them into your loving arms, trusting in your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always And also with you

You are invited to share signs of peace with others Please check with those around you if they are comfortable with a handshake, elbow bump or other physical signs before reaching out. Peace signs and humble bows are a healthy alternative.

THE ASSEMBLY SITS

Offering

You are invited to use this time as moments of silence for prayer and reflection. You are also encouraged to continue to share your offering with Trinity be mailing them to the church office or by donating online via our website: www.trinitybrewsterny.org)



+ MEAL +

Anthem: "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" George Mursell Garrett

OFFERING SONG: God of the fertile fields (All Creation Sings, #1063, vs. 1 & 2 only)

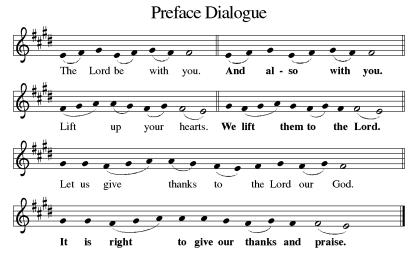
God of the fertile fields, Lord of the earth that yields our daily bread; forth from thy bounteous hand come gifts thy love has planned, that all in every land be clothed and fed. We would thy stewards be, holding in trust from thee all thou dost give; help us in love to share, teach us like you to care, that earth may all be fair; your children live.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, you feed us like a shepherd, tending to all our needs. We offer now these gifts in gratitude for what you have first given us. Use them according to your gracious will. Amen.

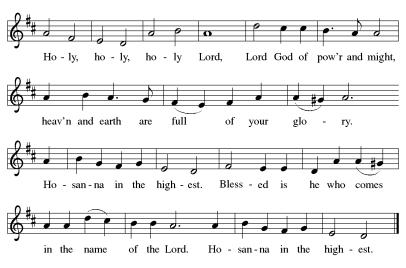
GREAT THANKSGIVING



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PREFACE

It is indeed our right, responsibility and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of a Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, Holy, Holy

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EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness, the shadows, and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hope and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh who in the night...do this in remembrance of me

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people, fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth Come, Holy Spirit

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen

We pray with and for all people, joining in the prayer Christ taught, saying...

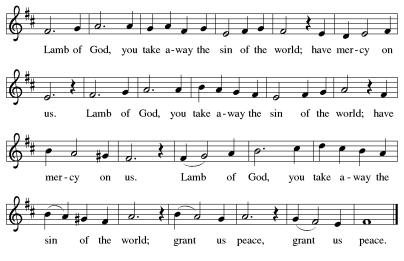
LORD'S PRAYER

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, And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, And the glory, forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ Jesus, our good shepherd, feeds us, his flock, on his own holy body and blood. Come to the feast of life, for all is prepared. **Thanks be to God!**

Lamb of God



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THE ASSEMBLY IS SEATED

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AND BLESSINGS

All the baptized are welcome to feast in the Eucharist. You may receive only the bread or wine and still experience the full benefit of our Lord's meal. Those who do not receive bread or wine are invited to come for a blessing.

All members and visitors, please complete a Record of Communion card (in the pew racks) and hand it to an usher as you come forward.

Ushers will direct you to come forward at the appropriate time.

Communion Hymn: Now We Join in Celebration ELW 462

Now we join in celebration At our Savior's invitation, Dressed no more in spirit somber, Clothed instead in joy and wonder; For the Lord of all existence, Putting off divine transcendence, Stoops again in love to meet us, With his very life to feed us.

Lord, as round this feast we gather, Fill our hearts with holy rapture! For this bread and cup of blessing Are for us the sure possessing Of your loving deed on Calv'ry, Of your living self, our vict'ry, Pledge of your unfailing presence, Foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

Lord, we share in this communion As one fam'ly of God's children, Reconciled through you, our brother, One in you with God our Father. Give us grace to live for others, Serving all, both friends and strangers, Seeking justice, love, and mercy Till you come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990 Music: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

Words for additional Communion hymns may be found on the card inside the back cover of your hymnal.

AFTER ALL HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR PLACES, THE ASSEMBLY STANDS.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path that we may do justice, love kindness and walking with you now and forever **Amen**

+ SENDING +

Mission and Ministry Announcements

THE ASSEMBLY STANDS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: Give Thanks for Saints ELW 428

Give thanks for those whose faith is firm When all around seems bleak: On God's good promise they rely, So while they live and when they die How forcefully they speak— The strong, who once were weak!

Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, Beyond mere mortal sight: Who seek the city God has planned, The true, eternal promised land, And steer on toward that light, A beacon ever bright.

Give thanks for those who love is pure, A sparkling precious stone: They show by what they say and do An inward beauty, warm and true, For God's concerns they own— God's love through them is known. Give thanks for saints of ages past And saints alive today; Though often by this world despised, Their hearts by God are richly prized. Give thanks that we may say We share their pilgrim way.

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, b. 1962 Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918 Text © 2003 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended, let the service begin! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!

Postlude: Christmas Postlude George Mursell Garrett

Worship notes: Portions of the worship service has been adapted by Pastor Jen from the following resources:

- Introduction, Call to Worship, Absolution, Prayer of the Day, Offering prayer, Prayers of Intercession, Invitation to Communion (@ Clergy stuff)
- + Confession, Candlelighting (Bible Worm, Rev. Teri Peterson.)
- + Other parts of worship are from the hymnals, Evangelical Lutheran Worship and All Creation Sings

Music Notes:

George Mursell Garrett (1834 – 1897) was an English organist and composer. Garrett was born in Winchester where his father was master of the choristers at Winchester Cathedral. He later served as assistant to Samuel Sebastian Wesley at Winchester. Garrett was appointed the Director of Music at St. John's College, Cambridge in 1857 and held the position for forty years. For many years, he served as organist at the Cathedral of Madras, India. Garrett wrote music for the Anglican Church in the form of service settings and anthems. He is perhaps best represented today by his Anglican chant setting of Psalm 126.



Today's altar flowers are given with love and in celebration of Cassandra and Kevin Wise's seventeenth birthday by their mother, Lois Lawerence. Happy birthday to you both and may God bless you both always!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023:

		Assisting Minister	Ushers
December	9:30 AM	Charlie Germain	Lois Lawerence
10 th	Holy Communion		Deb Lyon

LET'S WISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Juliette Dudowitz	Dec 10
Sawyer Loftus	Dec 10
2	
Meagan Beal	Dec 12
Marisol Langke	Dec 12
Cassandra Wise	Dec 12
Kevin Wise	Dec 12
Joseph Bettcher	Dec 13
Susan Kolar	Dec 15
Freyja Smith	Dec 15
Vivienne Howard	Dec 16
Barbara Von Bargen	Dec 17
Willow Groundwater	Dec 18
Tyler Lee	Dec 19
Susan Megaro	Dec 19
Anna Ruopp	Dec 21
Sandra Kenny	Dec 22
Anthony Baggetta	Dec 23
Kaitlyn Hansen	Dec 24





Sunday, Dec 10, Holy Communion 9:30 AM 2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday, Dec 17, Holy Communion 9:30 AM 3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday, Dec 24, Holy Communion 9:30 AM 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday, Dec 24, Holy Communion 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service Sunday, Dec 24, Holy Communion 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service Monday, Dec 25, Holy Communion 9:30 AM Christmas Day Service

A complete **CALENDAR** can be found at <u>www.trinitybrewsterny.org</u>

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN: Restless or unhappy children can be taken to the Narthex, where worship can be heard over speakers. Busy bags with activities are available in the narthex for our youngest worshippers. Please return the bags at the end of the service.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

As a people of God, we desire to experience the presence of God in our LIVES THAT WE MIGHT BE THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. **Trinity Lutheran Church** 2103 Route 6, Brewster, NY 10509; 845-279-5181; <u>www.trinitybrewsterny.org;</u> Office Hrs.: M-F, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Rev. Jennifer Boyd, Pastor: <u>revjedyer1@yahoo.com;</u> 845-279-5181 Charles A. Germain, Jr. and Dorothy R. Kafalas: Deacons Franklyn W. Commisso, Ph.D.: Minister of Music Sue Ellen Kelly, Office Admin: <u>TrinLutheranOffice@yahoo.com</u>

Peter Donoghue, Council President: trinitylutherancouncil@yahoo.com

Members of Trinity: Ministers to the Community & World