



ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Sunday, December 21 2025**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**10am Holy Communion**  
**Trinity Anglican Church**

**Welcome to Trinity! Thanks for joining us this morning. A special welcome to students at Carleton, UOttawa, Algonquin and other schools, colleges and universities, and to all those joining us today for the first time.**

***Help us save paper: download this worship booklet on your phone,***  
***[www.trinityottawa.ca/booklets](http://www.trinityottawa.ca/booklets), Our wifi is Trinity Church, password 1230BankStreet.***

To participate online, here are the links. By Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87608313656?pwd=WHZ5Z1lqcjdSa1dHLzhrVHQrdUpzUT09>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/trinityanglicanottawa>

*If you are here in person, you are welcome to place your donation in the offering plate at the back of the church. You may also make donations to Trinity by etransfer to [treasurer@trinityottawa.ca](mailto:treasurer@trinityottawa.ca) or by giving online at <https://www.trinityottawa.ca/give>. Please provide us with your contact information so that we can provide you with a tax receipt. Thank you!*

*At certain points in the service we will suggest standing or sitting. At any time, please feel free to take the posture (standing, sitting, kneeling) which is right for you.*

**Prelude: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)**

## **We Gather as a Community**

### **Territorial Acknowledgment**

As we gather, we acknowledge that Ottawa stands on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg people.

**May we dwell on this land with gratitude and respect.**

## **Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

## **Opening Hymn: #123 Once in Royal David's City**

### **Love: The Fourth Advent Candle**

Reader 1: Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Through the prophets, God promised a Messiah. We are in awe of Jesus' birth – that God came to us this way, in a weak and vulnerable baby. The mighty God of the universe has become Emmanuel, "God with us."

**Reader 2: The first Advent candle reminds us to have hope for a better world.** *(The first Advent candle is lit).* **The second Advent candle reminds us that God's dreams for peace can become real in our world.** *(The second Advent candle is lit).*

Reader 1: The third Advent candle reminds us that God calls us to share joy by being part of the healing of the world. *(The third Advent candle is lit).* Today, we light the fourth Advent candle. It reminds us of God's promise to be with us and to love us, now and always. *(The fourth Advent candle is lit).*

**All: Loving God, we thank you for your promise that you will be with us always. We rejoice in your faithfulness. Give us the courage to respond with the same love and compassion shown by Jesus. Amen.**

### **Advent Song**

There's a song of hope in my heart  
Hope is a gift from Jesus,  
There's a song of hope in my heart,  
Hope is a gift from God  
Alleluia, Hope in my heart is singing praises,  
Alleluia, Hope is a gift from God.

There's a song of peace in my heart  
Peace is a gift from Jesus,  
There's a song of peace in my heart,  
Peace is a gift from God  
Alleluia, Peace in my heart is singing praises,  
Alleluia, Peace is a gift from God.

There's a song of joy in my heart

Joy is a gift from Jesus,  
There's a song of joy in my heart,  
Joy is a gift from God  
Alleluia, Joy in my heart is singing praises,  
Alleluia, Joy is a gift from God.

There's a song of love in my heart  
Love is a gift from Jesus,  
There's a song of love in my heart,  
Love is a gift from God  
Alleluia, Love in my heart is singing praises,  
Alleluia, Love is a gift from God.

### **The Collect of the Day**

Let us pray.

*We pray silently*

God of grace,  
**give us the faith of Joseph**  
**to see the Spirit's work**  
**where the world sees only shame;**  
**to listen to the promise**  
**and to awaken to the cry of life renewed and love reborn;**  
**through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.**

### **We Proclaim the Word**

#### **The First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16 (Reader: Joseph Waugh)**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon cherubim  
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.  
3 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
4 O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?  
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
16 They burn it with fire like rubbish;  
at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.  
17 Let your hand be upon the one at your side in honour,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.  
18 And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name

**The Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7 (Reader: Shawne Elizabeth Beames)**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel (Matthew 1:18-25)**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**



Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of Christ.

**People:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily: Rev. Mark Whittall**

**Hear, O People,  
the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.**

**The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.**

**There is no commandment greater than these.**

**The Prayers of the People (Led by Brenda Small)**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the wonderful promise of Jesus, 'God with us' (Immanuel), revealed in Matthew. Like Joseph, we sometimes feel fear or confusion, but we pray for the courage to trust Your divine plan, even when we don't understand it.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful Lord, we pray for the global church. Fill your people with Your Holy Spirit, that we may boldly proclaim your Word in every language and culture, living lives that honor You and challenge the world to move towards Your vision of justice and peace.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Shepherd of Your church, we lift up to you the Diocese of Ottawa as it prepares to elect and receive a new bishop. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all who are entrusted with this decision.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, we pray for our troubled world. Give wisdom to all world leaders to seek some way out of the sufferings in their countries. May they strive for a deep and lasting peace, breaking down barriers of tribes, politics and religion.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we thank you for the communities of which we are part and ask you to guide us to be more aware of our neighbours' needs and ways in which we might help.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Mighty God, we pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital, for those who are experiencing extreme pain and for those anxiously awaiting a diagnosis, treatment, procedure or an operation. We especially pray for Margo, Cloe, Keith, Les, Emma, Ilse, Liz, Cynthia and Mary and those we name silently in our hearts.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Mighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before You those who have died and pray that they are now experiencing that light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope and comfort to the bereaved.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting God, send us out into the world, renewed by our worship and strengthened by our fellowship, so that we may be a testament to the Gospel of your son Jesus Christ.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

### **Confession and Absolution**

Dear friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,  
God welcomes all people and invites them to this table.  
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

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 neighbours 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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Peace**

One            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All            And also with you.**

## **We Celebrate the Eucharist**

### **Offertory Hymn: #132 Of Eternal Love Begotten**

**Gracious God,  
by the power of the Spirit  
who sanctified the mother of your Son,  
make holy all we offer you this day.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

Celebrant:    May God 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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant    It is indeed right that we should praise you . . .  
... to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All            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.**

Celebrant    Holy God, source of life and goodness ...  
... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All            Christ has died.  
Christ has risen.  
Christ will come again.**



Celebrant    Recalling his death, . . .  
                  . . . now and forever.

**People        Amen.**

*(please use the words and language of your choice)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.  
**Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Communion: Brenda and Doug Small**

*All are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing or communion. Our communion ministers will come to you as needed, please let us know. You are welcome to receive communion in one or both kinds, bread and/or wine. Gluten-free wafers are available, let us know if this is your preference. Please do not dip the bread in the wine.*

### **Anthem: There is no Rose of Such Virtue by John Joubert (1927-2019)**

*There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia.  
For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space; Res Miranda  
By that rose we may well see that He is God in persons three, Pares forma  
Now leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth; Transeamus*

## **We Are Sent**

Let us pray

*We pray silently*

God for whom we wait,  
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day  
when the hungry will be fed with good things.  
Send us forth to make known your deeds  
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Glory to God,  
whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

**Closing Hymn: Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear:**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave: [Refrain]**

**3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight: [Refrain]**

**4 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery: [Refrain]**

**5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe: [Refrain]**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please join us for refreshments following our worship at the back of the church. Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

**Postlude: Toccata in F major BWV540 by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)**

*Our readings for **The First Sunday after Christmas, Sunday, December 28:** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23*

**Announcements:**

**Help Needed Today! Christmas Eve 4pm Pop-up Pageant.** Immediately following today's worship we need volunteers to bring the pageant costumes upstairs. Please find Alexis at the back of the church and she'll put you to work!

**Christmas Eve 8.30pm Lighting Assistance.** If you can help manage the lights for our candlelight service on Christmas Eve, please speak to Rev. Mark today. Thanks!

**Trinity's 150th Anniversary.** Our parish was created in 1876, making the year 2026 our 150th anniversary. We are forming a committee to oversee our anniversary celebrations. If you would be interested in helping out, please speak to Rev. Mark or one of our wardens, Sally, Cliff, Aileen or Travis.

**Belong Ottawa (Centre 454, The Well, St. Luke's Table)** is an important community ministry that provides hot meals, laundry, shower and other essential supports for all who walk through their doors including people facing homelessness, living in precarious housing or simply needing a safe place to belong. With the cold weather upon us they are looking for donations of winter supplies for their clients. Please see insert for most needed items.  
Let's fill the bins at the back of the church!

The need is great - in the last 5 months Belong Ottawa has supported our community in the following ways:

81,621 meals prepared and served  
3483 showers provided  
3919 loads of laundry completed  
4830 respites offered

**Mid-Week at Trinity:**

**Monday Prayer Group,** noon in the chapel. Contact Myrna myrnarootham@gmail.com for details.

**Tuesday Bible Study On Campus,** Carleton U Spirituality Centre (T-27) 11am. Contact Rebecca [rebecca.cowal@trinityottawa.ca](mailto:rebecca.cowal@trinityottawa.ca). Resumes in January.

**Tuesday YA & Young Family Potluck:** 5.30pm in the Canterbury Room. Resumes in January.

**Wednesday 12 noon Bible Study on Zoom.** Contact Judy judy.richardson@trinityottawa.ca

**Wednesday 7.30pm YA Bible Study.** At Trinity House, 5 Harvard Avenue beside the church, contact [rebecca.cowal@trinityottawa.ca](mailto:rebecca.cowal@trinityottawa.ca) Resumes January 7

**Thursday Choir rehearsal** Contact Fabien Tousignant fabien.tousignant@trinityottawa.ca

## **Trinity Christmas Services:**

### **Christmas Eve, December 24**

4pm Carols & Communion (for children & all ages)

5.30pm Veille de Noël (en français)

8.30pm Candlelight Choral Eucharist

### **Christmas Day, December 25**

10am Christmas Day Eucharist



ANGLICAN CHURCH

Incumbent: Rev. Mark Whittall

email: [mark.whittall@trinityottawa.ca](mailto:mark.whittall@trinityottawa.ca)

mobile 613 793 7355

Director of Music and Organist: Fabien Tousignant

email: [fabien.tousignant@trinityottawa.ca](mailto:fabien.tousignant@trinityottawa.ca)

Children's Ministry, Comms and Office: Alex Udechukwu

[alexis@trinityottawa.ca](mailto:alexis@trinityottawa.ca)

Student & YA Coordinator: Rebecca Cowal

[Rebecca.cowal@trinityottawa.ca](mailto:Rebecca.cowal@trinityottawa.ca)

### **Trinity Anglican Church**

1230 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON. K1S 3Y3

[www.trinityottawa.ca](http://www.trinityottawa.ca)