

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
MORNING PRAYER
Sunday, December 28, 2025 | 10am**

Order of Worship

PRELUDE – *Pastorale*, Domenico Zipoli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Behold, the dwelling of God is with us. The Lord will dwell with us, and we shall be God's people. *Revelation 21:2*

HYMN

"WHAT CHILD IS THIS" (UMH 219, vv. 1 - 3)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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.**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3`

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *Puer Natus in Bethlehem (A Child is Born in Bethlehem)*
BuxWV 217, D. Buxtehude

SECOND READING

GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7

HYMN

“ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING” (UMH 62, vv. 1, 4 & 5)

THE GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to John.

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.

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your children with righteousness;

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;

Your saving health among all nations.

Let not those in need, O Lord, be forgotten;

Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

O God, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Here at Trinity Church, we live in hope that love can bring renewal and healing to our world. Let us practice this world together, sharing what we have, taking care of each other, and bringing all our questions and concerns as honest offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC – *Herr Christ, der enig Gottes Sohn*

(Lord Jesus, God's only Begotten Son), J. Walther

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, all creatures here below

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ and Spirit one. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray... **Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your kin-dom among us. Use what we bring—not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion—to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. Amen.**

*HYMN

"JOY TO THE WORLD" (UMH 246, vv. 1, 2 & 4)

*BENEDICTION

It has been done!

The News has been shared!

**A young maiden will bear a child,
and she will call him Jesus.**

But that is the beginning of the story,
a story that has not yet ended.

**A story that includes us,
a story of which we are a part.**

So we go out to live the story,
**to tell of the Hope that is being born among us this Christmas,
to share the Love of the season with the world,
to be agents of Peace in times of trouble,
to sing songs of deep and abiding Joy.**

As you go, may God go with you,
challenging us to respond to God's Call
in ways that are new,
unexpected and even a little unsettling.

Let us Bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN" (UMH 673, v. 1)

POSTLUDE – *Joseph est bien marié*, Claude Balbastre