

# Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

December 29, 2024 Christmas Morning Prayer 10:00 AM



PRELUDE – *Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ (Alone to you, Lord Jesus Christ)*, Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

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

CHRISTMAS CAROL #238

*"ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH" (vv 1 & 2)*

OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. Amen.**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

SECOND READING

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

HYMN #242

***“LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS”***

THE GOSPEL

**JOHN 1:1-14**

*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.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTING ON THE WORD TOGETHER

OFFERTORY – *Mary Did You Know?* arr. by Jack Schrader, Pastor Ben piano solo.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and  
    come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
    now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

#### CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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.**

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 a even little unsettling.

Let us Bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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.**

POSTLUDE – *Pointe d’orgue sur les Grands Jeux*, Nicolas de Grigny