

# TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

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## A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 14, 2014 - 9:30 a.m.

*We warmly welcome your presence as we gather to prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's greatest blessing - Jesus! We hope you will join us downstairs following the service for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat.*

*A special thank you to the readers, our musicians, our choir and crucifer for their participation in today's service.*

*The offering plate is not passed around during worship. If, however, you would like to make a donation towards the ministries at Trinity, please place it in one of the envelopes provided in the pew and drop it on the offering plate at the nave entrance. Please put your name and address on the envelope to ensure you receive a receipt for Income Tax purposes. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support.*

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*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.  
—Isaiah 61:1*

*Congregation stands for the hymn.*

**OPENING HYMN: 123 "Once in Royal David's City"**

*Congregation is seated.*

WELCOME

BIDDING PRAYER

CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY - JOY

Leader: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share. *(Three candles are lit.)*

**SONG** *(Tune: Away in a Manger) Congregation stands for the song.*

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;

A candle of **Hope** in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky

Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of **Peace**;  
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of **Joy**;  
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow  
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.



**All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*(The congregation will remain seated and stand for the hymns that are specified. The readers will come forward to the lectern during the last verse of each hymn.)*

**HYMN: 89 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-9 God's people are comforted.

*Period of Silence*

God of freedom, give the strength of hope to those who suffer oppression in body, mind, or human dignity. Let them hear the vanguard of your coming grace, and give them the wholeness you intend for all your children. We ask this in the name of your servant, Jesus Christ, the sign of your presence and the pioneer of our salvation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 106 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"**

SECOND LESSON

Micah 6:6-8 *What God required.*

*Period of Silence*

God of our longing, we cannot earn the wholeness we desire, nor win your healing grace by offering back the bounty we receive. Give us, we pray, hearts to learn your will, and wills to do your pleasure in the works of justice and of peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 151 "All Poor Folk and Humble"**

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:5-25 *An angel announces the birth of John, the forerunner of the Messiah.*

*Period of Silence*

Almighty God you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people wisdom to see your purpose, and openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Congregation stands for the hymn.*

**HYMN: 108 "Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding"**

*Congregation is seated.*

ANTHEM: 102 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

#### FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38 *The angel Gabriel announces that the Holy Spirit will come upon Mary, she will conceive and have a son, Jesus.*

*Period of Silence*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 155 "From East to West, from Shore to Shore"**

Anthem: Peace, Peace, Peace (Tune: Still, Still, Still)

#### FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7 *Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

*Period of Silence*

O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 122 "In the Bleak Midwinter"**

ANTHEM: 125 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

#### SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds go to the manger.*

*Period of Silence*

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, 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.**

*Congregation stands for the hymn.*

**HYMN: 135 "Shepherds in the Field Abiding"**

*Congregation is seated.*

ANTHEM: 137 "What Child is This"

#### SEVENTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11 *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

*Period of Silence*

Eternal God who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 118 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

ANTHEM: 145 "Good King Wenceslas"

EIGHTH LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-12 *In these last days God has spoken to us by a Son.*

*Period of Silence*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery. By the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 138 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14 St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

*Period of Silence*

Eternal Wisdom, creating, ordering, and saving, we give you thanks that we have seen you in the selfless love of Jesus Christ. Now reign within our minds and hearts, and mobilize our will, that by your power and through our hands this world may be re-made to be the garden and the city of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Congregation stands for the hymn.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN: 154 "Joy to the World"**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Congregation kneels or sits for the prayers.*

CLOSING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

With joy in our hearts, let us gather our prayers in the words our Saviour taught us...

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know he will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING *(all stand for the blessing and closing hymn)*

Leader: Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice—for God has created you with the capacity for joy.

**All: We will find what makes us joyful, and make that our gift to the world.**

Leader: Trust in God's good will for all of creation and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

**All: We will welcome new possibilities in our lives. We will offer ourselves to God's goodness. We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.**

CLOSING HYMN: 148 " See Amid the Winter's Snow"

DISMISSAL



## Announcements and Coming Events



- Dec. 15**                    **Meditation Series 7 p.m. church nave**  
**Dec. 17**                    **Wednesday Carol Hymn Sing 12 noon-1 p.m.**  
**Dec. 18**                    **Seniors' Luncheon 12 noon**  
**Dec. 21**                    **Christmas Potluck after Worship Service**  
**Dec. 24**                    **Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Candlelighting Liturgy 7:30 p.m.**  
**Dec. 25**                    **Christmas Day Service Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.**

**Anyone wishing to donate** towards Christmas memorial flowers please contact Charleen at 705-746-5923 before December 14, 2014.

**The Altar Guild will be decorating** the church for Christmas on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help please join us at 10 a.m. We can use all the help we can get! Bring a lunch.

**Our Christmas potluck** will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2014. Come along, eat, be merry!

**Church Calendars 2015** are now available for \$5.00 each. Please see Charleen or Betty to purchase.

**Advent Christian Meditation (Contemplative Prayer) Series** continues Monday evenings beginning at 7 pm, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> in the church nave. Each session will last an hour (meditation time: 20 min.) All who are interested are invited to attend. No experience is necessary. This could be the beginning of a life changing experience. A *FREE WILL OFFERING will be available with the proceeds going to Harvest Share.* For additional information contact: David or Maureen Rowed at 705-389-9880.

**Mitten Basket** - The Outreach Committee is again this year gratefully accepting donations of mitts, hats, scarves and socks. Your items may be placed in the basket in the narthex. In January, your donations of warm woolens will be sent to Jacob Simon Memorial Education Centre in Webequie, Ontario (540 km north of Thunder Bay or 450 km north of Sioux Lookout). The school accommodates approximately 200 students from SK to grade 10. They were very grateful for last year's gifts!

**Victory School** is closing in 2015, almost 100 years after opening. A commemorative cookbook is being put together and we would love to have recipes or short anecdotes from former students and teachers. Please email them to [victoryschoolrecipes@hotmail.com](mailto:victoryschoolrecipes@hotmail.com) or drop off at the school on Forest Street. Please let your friends and family know and be a part of Victory School's history. Any questions, please call Mary Hachigian 705-746-9486.

**January 22 - 24, 2015:** Trinity Institute's 44th Annual Conference, *Creating Common Good*, to be held at Trinity via webcast. See posters on boards.

**Non-perishable** food donations will go to Harvest Share on the first Sunday of each month.

**Notices** to be printed in the weekly announcements must be submitted to the church office by Wednesday of the previous week. This will enable us to have postings on our website a week in advance.

**All Committee Chairs** please notify Abe Kamerman of events so that he can prepare the church hall/church for cleaning, setting up, cleaning up, etc. Please email him at [a.j.enterprises@sympatico.ca](mailto:a.j.enterprises@sympatico.ca) or phone 705-746-0183cell. Otherwise, readiness will not prevail! Also, please let Rose-Ellen know as events must be noted on the office calendar.