



Trinity Tidings

January 2022

Covered beneath the Light of God

Sermon: Eve of the Nativity, 2021:

Several weeks ago, we welcomed Bishop Sean Rowe here with us at Trinity for a service of Confirmation, to confirm the candidates of this parish family as they made their public, mature statement of faith. As is done in preparation for this event, the confirmands and I met together for sessions of study and conversation related to key aspects of our faith and the Church.

One of these sessions was dedicated to learning more about the various items of use for worship, in particular at The Eucharist: What is a chalice, what is a paten, or a chasuble, and the like. One such item is called a 'pall'; it is a covering. When preparing the altar for worship it is placed on top of the paten, or plate that holds the bread. During the Eucharistic Prayer, it may also cover the chalice. So, this type of pall covers the elements that are to become the Body and Blood of Christ.

You may be familiar with another type of pall for use in liturgy, a covering that is placed over a casket, or an urn, when a body is brought into the church for a funeral. This, of course, is where the term pallbearer is derived. Some may say that this covering represents a garment worn at baptism, but I was offered a different teaching. Whether the body of the deceased is placed in a simple, wooden box, or in the finest and most expensive casket, it is covered when brought into the church. For at such an occasion, in particular, we are reminded that all are equal in the eyes of God.

We also know that the word pall has additional meanings outside of the liturgy. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as: *to lose strength or effectiveness; to lose interest; or, a feeling of gloom.* During the course of these past two years, at this time of ongoing pandemic, it is safe to say that all of us have felt a pall placed over our lives.

Much like sailing on a rudderless ship on the high seas, at times, we have been tossed to and fro. This time last year we were not able to gather together under this roof. Instead, many of us attended a Christmas Eve service online. How many of us knew then that we would come to understand the workings of Zoom video-conferencing so well? We were connected with one another, and yet still distant.

Currently, we are able to physically move around more. If we wish, we can even do our holiday shopping in stores, but we notice that things are not quite the same as they once were. Children visiting Santa Claus at the local mall must do so with jolly Saint Nicholas seated behind a barrier of plexiglass.

And while we are now able to be here together this evening for this time of worship, many in our community continue to be absent. As we sing our hymns of praise, we do so with a bit of caution and not with the full voice of our rejoicing. The swift end to this pandemic that many of us had anticipated, did not happen.

In preparation for our confirmation service, I reminded our confirmands that the class sessions are not meant for them to try and to know everything about Christianity. We know this isn't possible. The purpose is to build a groundwork, which will enable them to continue in a relationship with God. One that is ongoing and in a continual state of growth.

What I did suggest to them was to study the information and become aware of making important connections with its many and varied components. To seek out a link of meaning between the life we live and the aspects of our faith. For example, the type of pall used to cover the Body and Blood of Christ is connected in meaning with the pall that covers our mortal bodies when brought into the Church for the final time.

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But if we take this concept further and look at the larger picture, these two tangible items used in liturgy also connects us with meaning of the other, non-tangible, definition of a pall. We even discover a main teaching of our faith, which defines our relationship with God and one another.

On this Christmas Eve, followers of Jesus celebrate that unique event in history that led each one of us, you and me, to experience a bond with something greater than ourselves. The result of this event was the removal of a greater pall, if you will, which was placed, covering over all of humanity. This evening, we rejoice at the birth of the Christ Child; we celebrate the event of the Incarnation. Or, as St. John tells us: *When the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.*

As followers of Jesus, we recognize that God did not leave us to suffer the consequences of evil by ourselves, but arrived – making a connection – to humanity in order to be revealed to us in the person of Jesus. As such, God entered into our sorrows and troubles of life, and even our death. We actually proclaim that God suffered *with* and *for* us.

During our covid-lockdown, I took time to learn more about the 1918 influenza pandemic and the First World War. In preparation for this sermon, the story of the Christmas truce of 1914 between English and German troops came to my mind. You may be familiar with this story. English and German soldiers fighting on the Western Front of Europe, stopped their conflict on Christmas Eve and gathered together in no-man's land, the location between the two opposing trenches. There, they gathered to sing and even play a game of soccer. For a brief moment in time, they placed all else in life aside to celebrate an event.

But I may have thought about this story for another reason. After what each one of us, myself included, have experienced and witnessed these past two years, I have come to view this story in a different way. Soldiers gazing across a no-man's land to kill the other. Both armies sleeping and eating and living in the cold, wet, clay of the earth, far from their homes. With such a group as this, I could certainly understand if they all said at that time, "Christmas, bah humbug. Who needs that?" But they did not.

Instead, an action initiated by one side, by way of singing a carol, was met with a response from the other side. And, together, they all began to sing. Whether these soldiers knew it or not, their collective action recalled the event of the Incarnation and marked this event as God's response to the presence

of evil in the world. Their celebration designated the action of God fully touching humanity as a sign of hope to all who suffer in life. With the birth of Christ, all persons now see in their experiences a unity with a suffering God.

Now, I am sure that many of these soldiers simply took this opportunity to find respite from their current state, from their sufferings. But this, too, is alright. While our relationship with God is not about escapism, the opportunity to connect with God is always presented to us. This is a gift to set the bustle of life aside, if only for a brief time, to ponder and to strengthen relationship. In so doing, we discover that THE event of Christmas began a process of transformation. A world once covered in darkness, by an unpleasant pall, is forever illuminated by an eternal, divine light.

So, on this night, as we continue our journey in hope of discovery for the many connections given to us, let us accept this gift of Christmas. May we not only celebrate and rejoice, but also realize that the only thing truly covering us in life is the Light of God. May we come to know that the invitation to be present with God is always open to us.

With our response to this gift, I offer to you the words of an ancient proverb. It is a statement that illustrates our actions as the People of God, and for our time: *It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.*

*Peace during this Season of Light,
James+*

Important dates in January:

Sundays: 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I;

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II;

Godly Play Program, 10:30 a.m.

Please note a schedule change for Sunday, Jan. 30

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 6:00 p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 30, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

No 8 o'clock service is scheduled.

Happy New Year!!

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The Episcopal Church

The Office of Public Affairs

Statement from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

December 26, 2020

With the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a true friend, colleague, and mentor—and a genuinely humble, great soul—has gone before us. He has passed through the gate of death into the arms of the God who gave him life.

While on this earth, he sought to follow Jesus of Nazareth in God's way of love and life. In so doing, he showed us how to live God's dream as children of the one God and creator of all.

So, even in our sorrow that he is no longer walking among us, we can thank God that he did.

Perhaps we best give thanks by honoring his legacy—not merely with lip service to racial justice and reconciliation, but with lives dedicated to this work. We do this by learning to live together as the children and family of God, no longer hurting each other or God's creation, but together living the dream God intended. For in God's dream, as the Hebrew prophet Isaiah said, "they will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

To borrow from a friend who texted me on Archbishop Tutu's passing, may the knowledge of his life and heart keep us all strong, good, kind, and loving.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry
*Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church*

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Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

November 16, 2021

As approved at the December Meeting

Present: William Roberts, Senior Warden; Sue Torrance, Junior Warden; Jack Torrance; Karin Wheelock; Lucille Bryant; Janeil Rey; Doreen Gould; Virginia Becker, Treasurer; and, The Reverend James Clement, Rector. **Excused:**

Call to Order: Fr. Clement called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with an opening prayer.

The Meeting Agenda was approved as given, as moved by Lucille Bryant, seconded by William Roberts.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Lucille Bryant, seconded by William Roberts, to approve the October 19, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds

Finance: Virginia Becker reported.

A motion was made by Jack Torrance, seconded by Janeil Rey, to receive the treasurer's report. The treasurer's written report was received as submitted and reported. See attached.

- **General Fund:** Bills are paid as received and payroll is met. New checks (500) were purchased at a cost of \$81 from Express Prints for use in making payments. Given the current number of checks used in a month, this purchase should last about 2 1/2 years.
- **Stewardship:** The Stewardship Committee comprised of Bill Roberts (chair), Bonnie Liener, Karin Wheelock, and Virginia Becker composed and sent a letter to members and friends of the parish. Sixty-one (61) letters were distributed. Stewardship Sunday is November 28th.
- **Outreach – Christmas Family:** Donations totaling \$315 have been received to date towards the purchase of items for the Christmas Family.

- Flower Guild: The current balance of the flower guild checking account is \$923.20. A bill is anticipated soon.

Memorial Fund Report: Virginia Becker reported.

- Current balance: \$2,867.28.

Buildings and Grounds: Fr. Clement reported.

- A new baby crib, changing table, mattress, and bedding were purchased for the nursery area. Thank you to Jeanette Adamczak for assembling the crib and changing table.
- Belko manufacturer conducted its inspection of the lift.
- Toilet in men's restroom needs repair.
- A. W. Farrell has been contacted about a roof leak on the main roof of the church building.

Additional Reports: Congregational Ministries

Parish Outreach: Karin Wheelock reported.

- Thank you to everyone who contributed to the toothpaste collection for the *Santa for Seniors* program with the Office of the Aging. We exceeded our commitment goal for this project.
- The Mitten Tree collection will begin soon for collection of items during the months of December and January. The tree will be located in the narthex of the church.

Sunday School: Godly Play: Janeil Rey reported.

- The newly renovated Godly Play room has been fully cleaned and arranged to being curriculum sessions, which recently began.

TECW: Doreen Gould reported.

- A meeting is scheduled for December.
- Thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent rummage sale, which collected a total of \$1232.40.
- A purchase was made for Godly Play items to be used in the curriculum, which was given in Memory of Linda Ingham.

Rector's Report: Fr. Clement reported.

- Attended a clergy day retreat in Ludlow, PA.
- Attended clergy meeting.

- Confirmation classes continue as we prepare for Bp. Sean's visit on Dec. 2.
- Officiated a funeral at St. Peter's Church, Westfield.
- Trinity will host a regional diocesan event during Eastertide 2022. More information about this event forthcoming.
- Dr. Woo, organist, will take vacation time during December and January.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- T.E.C.W. Meeting Notes 2020: Vestry held conversation with regard to TECW meetings held during 2020. Sue Torrance made the following motion, seconded by Janeil Rey: Any committee or group in the parish with a financial account associated with the committee or group, should make a financial accounting and provide minutes of each meeting to Vestry, each month. Motion carried.
- T.M.C.: In light of new information Vestry requested that Mr. Phillip McMullen, Director of Trinity Masterworks Choir, be contacted and a request of the return of checkbooks and debit card of a Lake Shore Savings account be returned to the parish office. Fr. Clement and the Wardens will contact him in the near future, on behalf of Vestry and Trinity Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with a motion made by William Roberts. Vestry ended its time together with prayer.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sue Torrance, Acting Clerk.

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A call was issued on Dec. 1 to Vestry for a Special Meeting to be held on Sunday, Dec. 5, 11:30 a.m. The matter before Vestry was the Trinity Masterworks Choir. A quorum was present. In summary, the following actions were approved by the Vestry:

1. Vestry accepted the resignation of Mr. Phillip McMullen as Director of Trinity Masterworks Choir, effective Nov. 20, 2021.

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Following the 10:30 worship service

*There will be one worship service
on this particular Sunday at
10:30 a.m.*

no 8:00 a.m. service.

Please note: There is no Luncheon this year
due to Covid-19 guidelines.

and
The meeting will be held in the Church.

See you there!

**Committee reports are due to the
Parish Office by Sunday, January 16.**

2. With regard to the Lake Shore Savings account: Trinity will hold in reserve an amount of \$1,500, which will be transferred into an established not-for-profit account that supports a new community choir within the region of Chautauqua County, N.Y. This transfer of funds must take place prior to January 1, 2025. If this does not occur before said date, this monetary amount will revert back into the Trinity Music account.

3. As Mr. McMullen himself proposed to Vestry in 2018, a portion of the funds raised for Trinity Masterworks Choir is to be used for student scholarships. Therefore, the unencumbered balance of the Lake Shore account, less \$1,500, will be used for student scholarships at Trinity Episcopal Church.

4. As he has resigned as Director of Trinity Masterworks Choir, Mr. McMullen has been removed as a signatory from the Lake Shore Savings account.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

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Parish Notes



Confirmation 2021

Congratulations to Lauren and Nathan!

Parish Outreach

Mitten Tree

Outreach continues to collect items for the Mitten Tree during the month of January. Donations of new and gently used hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves will gladly be accepted. Items collected will be divided between Rural Ministries and Partners in Kind. The Mitten Tree is located in the narthex of the Church.





Many thanks to the parishioners of Trinity Episcopal Church!

Because of your generous nature, we were able to provide Christmas gifts for a family in need.

We worked with a local school to obtain ages and interests of the children.

All children received 2 toys, pajamas and a fleece blanket. A gingerbread house kit was purchased as a family gift. The children should have fun with that!

In addition, a large box of food was purchased so that the family could enjoy a Christmas breakfast complete with juice, hot chocolate, fruit cups, cinnamon bread, jam, peanut butter, cereal, precooked bacon and holiday plates & napkins. The food box should provide more than one meal and a few treats for the children.

Thanks to Meredith Wheelock and Lauren Sercu for their help wrapping!

--- Diane Sercu

From the Parish Treasurer

Your 2021 fourth-quarter giving statement will be in the mail soon. Accompanying it is your 2022 pledge confirmation. It notes your pledge envelope number which is the same as last year. Write that number on your offering check so your gift can be recorded accurately. Pledge envelopes are available in the narthex. If you are picking up envelopes for others, please make arrangements with them in advance so they are aware.

Thank you, parish friends, for your steadfast support of Trinity this past year, and for your promises for the future.

In peace, love and joy,
Virginia T. Becker, Treasurer

The Trinity Masterworks Committee and Vestry announce the resignation of Mr. Phillip McMullen as Director.

We thank him for his dedication and talent offered to this project. And we wish Phillip well as he moves into a new chapter of his life and work.

A BIG THANK YOU!

to the following persons who will conclude their time on Vestry in January 2022. After their name is the number of consecutive years of service, plus one due to pandemic. A member of Vestry is elected to serve a three-year term.

Lucille Bryant (10)
Doreen Gould (10)
Jack Torrance (4)
Sue Torrance (4)

We Thank You for your commitment and service to the Parish Family!

We note, with sadness, the death of Mr. Robert Coon. Bob was a longtime parishioner and served as Parish Treasurer for over a decade.

To this day, we continue to benefit from the work and insight that he offered on behalf of this congregation. Please continue to keep Shirley and their family in your thoughts and prayers. (JMC+)

*Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon him.*

TECW

In case your 2022 calendar is looking a bit sparse please note that the TECW will hold the first meeting of 2022 on Saturday January 8, in Garland Hall at 9:30AM. All women of the church are welcome to join in and we forward to seeing many of you there -face masks will be worn.

Thank you to all who have already turned in the Christmas Stocking Savings project money-If you still have yours it can be brought to the meeting or left in the Sunday collection plate. We will begin to discuss our options of where the money generated from this project will do the most good.

--- Doreen Gould

Parish Register

Confirmation

Lauren Sercu
Nathan Sercu
December 2, 2021

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January Lectionary: The Lessons and Psalms for each Sunday can be found online here:

www.lectionarypage.net

Sunday, Jan. 2

Second Sunday after Christmas

Jerimiah 31:7-14

Psalms 84:1-8

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, Jan. 9

First Sunday after the Epiphany:

The Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, Jan. 16

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Sunday, Jan. 23

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, Jan. 30

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Birthdays in January

- 1 Patricia Arnold
- 2 Diego Rey
- 5 Melisa Eichmann
- 5 Bryon Rexford
- 5 Chloe Chin
- 6 Andrew Liener
- 6 Kaylee Adamczak
- 16 Autumn Wright
- 16 Maxine Hovencamp
- 17 Diane Sercu
- 17 Jacqueline Branch
- 18 Tessa Chin
- 20 Mary Lou Vercant
- 20 John Berner
- 21 Sean Hudson
- 21 Ginny Becker
- 26 Nancy Jacobi
- 27 Leah Mosier
- 29 John Swank

Wedding Anniversaries

(None in January)

In Memoriam

- 9 David Vercant
- 15 Mary Repert
- 16 Jean Lucille Forster
- 16 Dan Gawron
- 17 Alan Knowles
- 17 Shirley Albaugh
- 21 Ione Reiff
- 21 Sam Mancuso
- 21 Gladys Wienk
- 27 Joe Cerrito
- 29 Patricia Wheelock

Trinity Tidings

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Parish Clergy and Staff

The Revd. James Clement, *Rector*

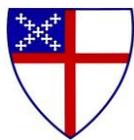
Email: rector@trinitychurchwny.org

Dr. Ji Hyun Woo, *Organist and Director of Music*

Sara Jagoda, *Sexton*

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The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:2*