The CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY

An Episcopal Church

502 South Morris Street POB 387 - Oxford, Maryland
Office 410-226-5134
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org
holytrinityoxfordmd.org

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

8:00 am & 10:00 am

The Reverend Kevin M. Cross, Rector



GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY!

"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord" Psalm 122:1

"The prelude begins our service. Once it begins, please take a moment for silent prayer/meditation so that we enter into our worship with quieted, prayerful minds. Thank you."

Holy Eucharist Rite II

A major step we have taken for safety in the Church and Parish Hall Buildings is the installation of an air handling system, the Remo-Halo, which is a new and advanced air treatment purification system. The CDC recommends this type of Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation as one of the most effective technologies to minimize the spread of airborne microorganisms. This system has been proven to be very effective in killing the coronavirus as well as flu and cold viruses. The air is fully exchanged 6 times per hour.

Prelude

Prepare the Royal Highway R. Hobby

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Today we light the candle of Peace

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the light of the world and to spread his light of love to all. Bless us and accept this wreath of light as our offering of thanksgiving. May its ever increasing brightness be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare in joy for his humble birth in a manger and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

Advent Hymn

O Come to Us Emmanuel J. Martin

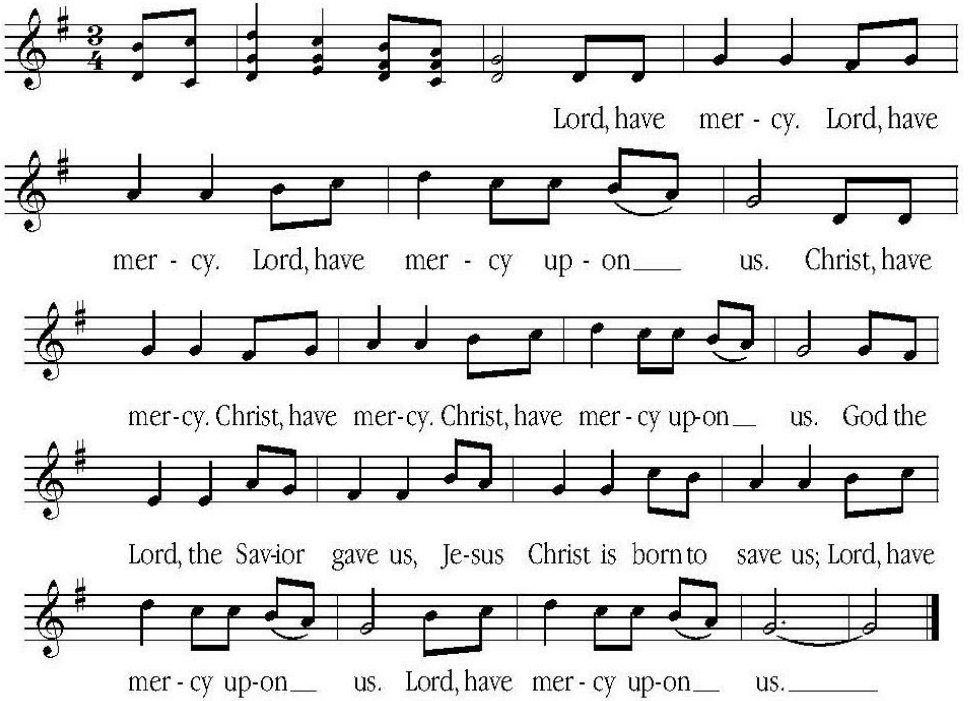
Melissa Wise, Soprano

The Word of God

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Kyrie



Words: Kyrie. Music: The St. James Christmas Service, arr. Mark Schweizer, ©2006 St. James Music Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission from St. James Music Press.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture

First Lesson *Isaiah 64:1-9*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or

attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord
People: ***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 the 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 neighbors, ****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 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, ****the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.***
17 And so will we never turn away from you; ****give us life, that we may call upon your Name.***

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; ***show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.***

Second Lesson *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

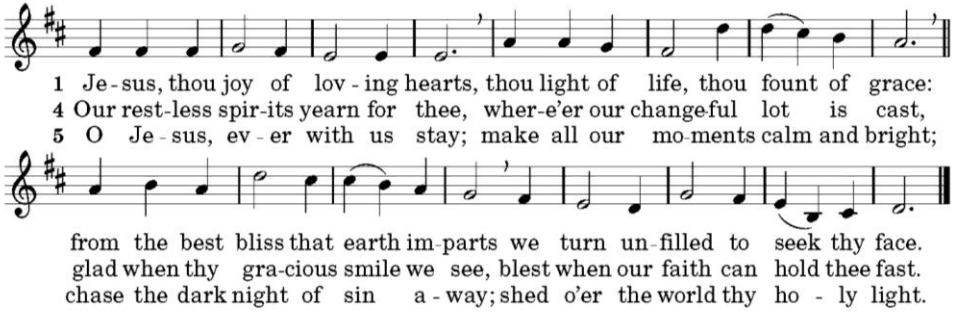
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

*People****: Thanks be to God***

Gradual Hymn

Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts



Words:Benard of Clairvaux, trans. Ray Palmer. Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith. Public Domain. Reprinted under RiteSong Subscription.

Gospel *Mark 13:24-37*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
People: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ***

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven." "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. " "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon *Father Kevin Cross*

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Our gracious, eternal God, give your attention to us as we again seek to "prepare the way of the Lord" on our advent journey.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we are weak-kneed and world weary, lift us up. When we have lost our way or lost hope, may we hear you speaking softly and tenderly to us. When we cannot banish from our minds and continue to hold close the sins of the past, give us the courage to claim your grace and to say: "enough is enough." When we are fearful of our own mortality give us the trust in your word which endures forever. When we are timid or fearful about the message of hope which we proclaim, give us the courage to claim and to witness to the good news. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer***.

In the midst of all the despair the world and life can present cause us to find comfort in the good news. May we never forget that our message is a message of comfort and of love and of faithfulness. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer***.

In the midst of suffering and sorrow let us be agents of love, healing and compassion. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. In our weekly prayer intentions, we pray for:

Joel	***Dan O'Neill***	***Stephanie Cooney Moorhead***
Ritzi Miller	***Jackson Beaumont***	***India***
Rich Wagner	***Courtney***	***Janet Wroten***
Eleanor Dallam	***Polly Obermeier***	***Leslie Howell***
Michael Delean	***Everett Kimball***	***Suzanne Litty***
Donna Richards	***John Dillon***	***Deborah Barbour***
Betty Jo Mackart	***Ron Kaufman***	***Philip Tragmar***
Betty Mackart	***Diane Lapp***	***Dick Barnes***
Elspeth Ritchie	***Sara Kadish***	***Sue Schulze***
Fr. Ambrose Boyd	***George Wadleton***	

Are there others? You may name them aloud or silently in your heart. (pause)… ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, ***Kathy Sykes and David Blanton,*** that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

We remember especially the members of our military who died in service to our country and we pray for comfort and solace for their families.

Are there others? You may name them aloud or silently in your heart. (pause)…***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people in the war torn areas of the world today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus the Prince of Peace. ***Dear God, hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (Silence)

Together: What we pray for ourselves we also pray for others. Be with all those places where inhumanity is shown toward any of your children. Be in those places of war and conflict. Be in the sufferings of those who have experienced natural disasters, persecution or famine. May all the earth be captured by the will

to love. May all the earth be touched to change. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Altar Flowers Are Given By Sandy & Ron Kaufman
In Honor of Marie Davis and
In Memory of Her Loving Husband, Tom Davis.

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 neighbors 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.

Absolution

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ and strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen***

Peace

Presider: The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory

8:00

My Lord What A Mornin' arr. M. Hayes

10:00

Advent Alleluia K. Christopher

Melissa Wise, solo

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Presider: All things come from Thee O Lord**.**
People: And of Thine own have we given Thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

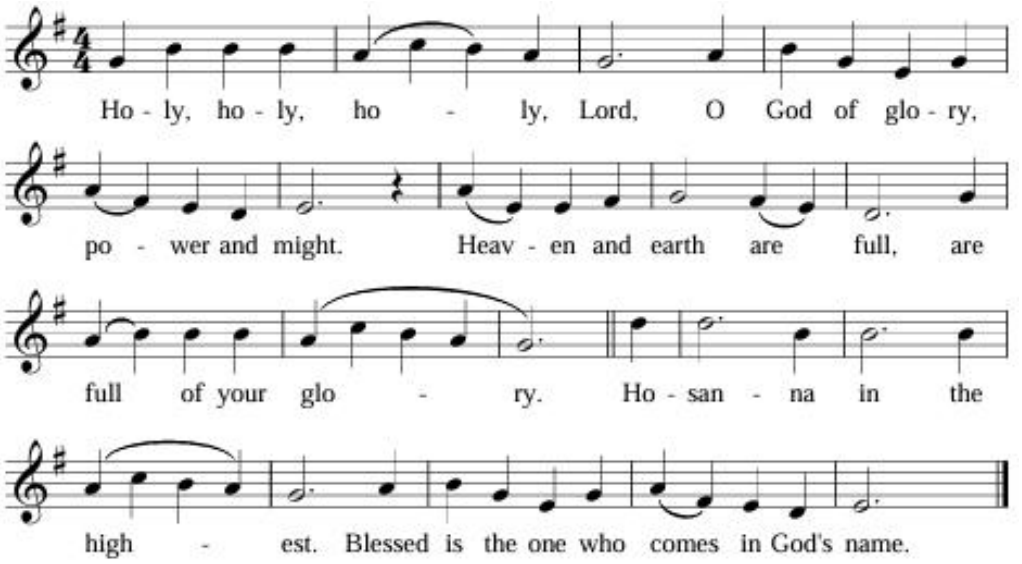
Presider: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Preface

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus



Words: Liturgy for Holy Communion, adapt. Taylor Burton-Edwards, ©2006 Discipleship Ministries. Music" 15th century French All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission from Discipleship Ministries.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

The gifts of God are for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I reaffirm your presence in my heart. I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Communion

Advent Meditation D. Eliot

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Birthdays

Kristen Cross, 12/2
Jordan & Gary Thatcher, 12/3
Will & Josh Schmidt, 12/6
Wendy Grubbs, 12/6

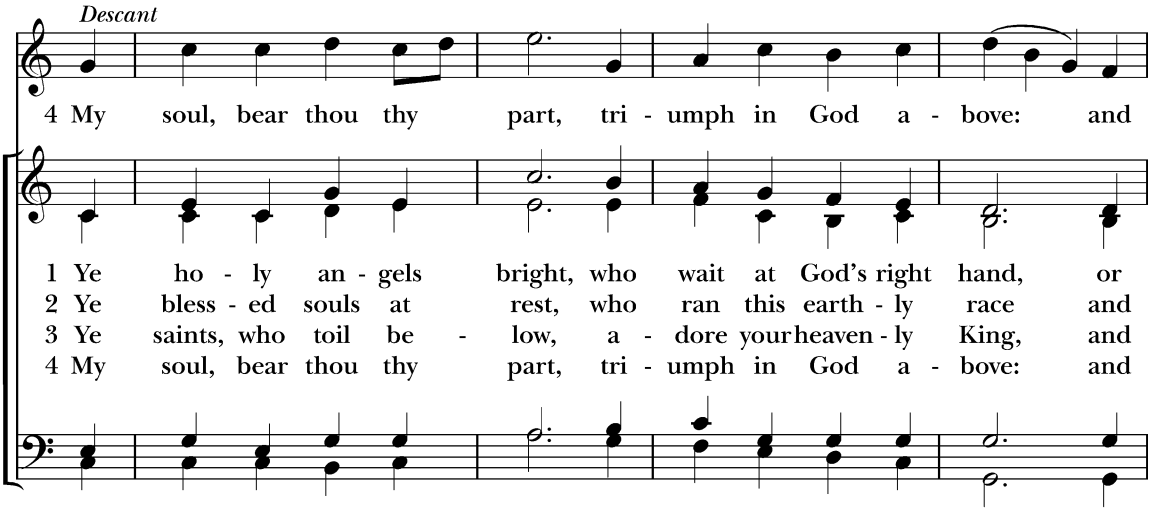
Anniversaries

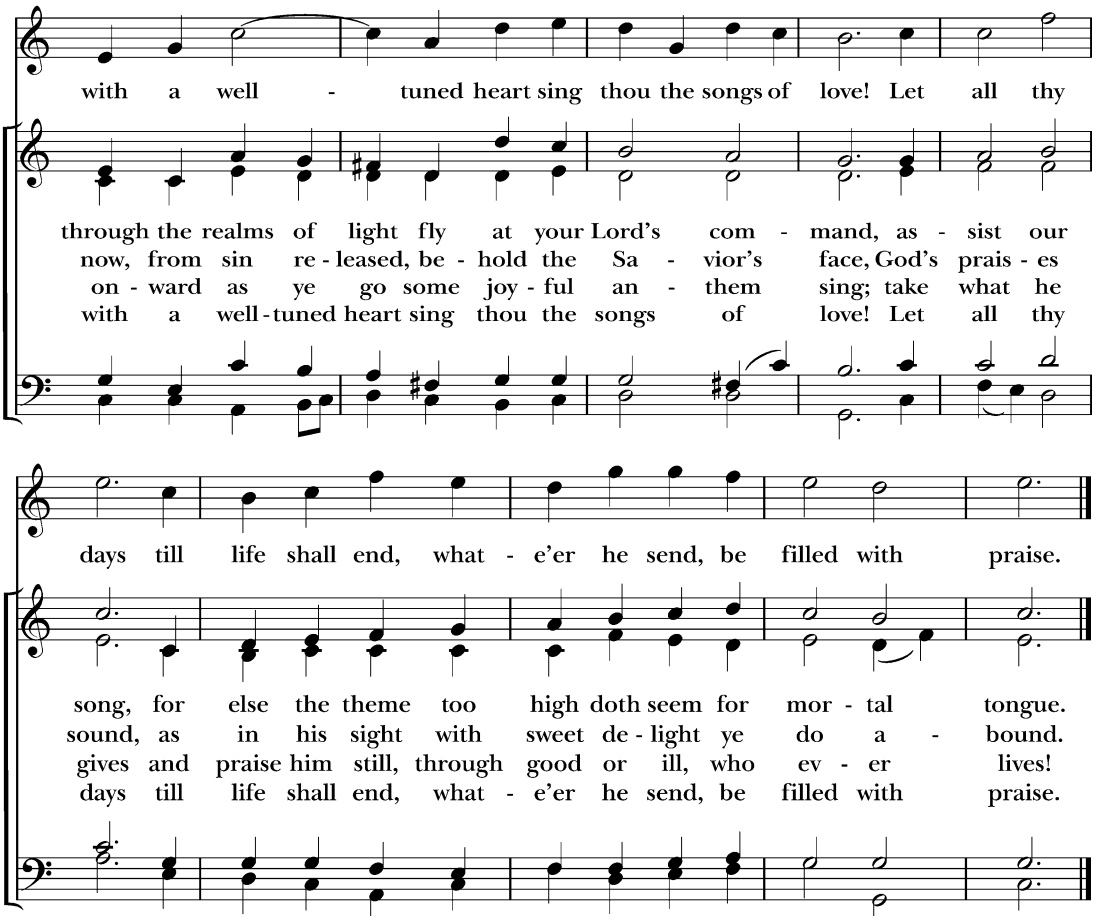
We would like to pray for you. We invite you to email office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org with the date of your birthday or anniversary.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Ye Holy Angles Bright





Words: Richard Baxter. Music: DARWELL, John Darwell. Public Domain. Reprinted under RiteSong Subscription.

Sending Forth

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Noel Angevin G-Dur C. Franck

Thank you Melissa Wise, Dan Wright and Cora Bruner for your beautiful music.

Thank you Michelle and Cameron Mactavish for hosting Fellowship hour.

Worship Service Schedule

Holy Eucharist with Music Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

First Sunday of the month 9:30 am

This Week at Church of the Holy Trinity

Monday – November 30	**Friday – December 4**
12:00 – 2:00 Chicken Pot Pie Prep. 3:00 Grief Support Group 5:00 pm – Inquiring Believers **Tuesday – December 1**	Continued Market Set Up 10:00 am – Choir Practice **Saturday – December 5** 9:00 – 2:00 Christmas Market
8:30 Intercessory Prayer 2:00 pm – Kathy Sykes Viewing 3:00 pm – Kathy Sykes Funeral **Wednesday – December 2**	2:00 Market Take Down **Sunday – December 6** Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am – 2:00 Wreath Making	
Thursday – December 3 12:00 Noon Christmas Market Set up	

Vestry Members

Margot McConnel Sr. Warden	Connie Greenhawk, Secretary	Margaret Munsch, Registrar
Dick Deerin, Treasurer	Bill Ritchie & Michelle Mactavish, Co-Junior Wardens	Gordon Fronk – Emeritus
Martha Callahan	Tom DeMarco	Susan Grauel
Dick Deerin	Art Dent	Trish Malin
Laura Cassidy	Walda Roseman	Al Sikes

Dr. Cora Bruner - Organist and Music Director

Barbara Cross – Sunday School Director

Worship Leaders	**8:00 am**	**10:00 am**
Reader	Michelle Mactavish	John Malin
Acolyte	Beverly Rohman	Mickley Terrone
Usher	Michelle Mactavish	John Malin
Vestry Greeter	Art Dent	Trish Malin

Altar Guild	Midge Menzies, Marty Sikes, Meg van den Berg
Flower Guild	Ingrid Blanton, Pam Dent, Susan Middleton, Karen Parker, Chloe Pitard



CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas Flower Memorial Fund, please fill out the information below and place in the collection plate or mail along with your donation in the amount of your choosing to The Church of the Holy Trinity no later than ***December 18, 2026***

Flowers Donated by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Dedication to: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Mail to:
Church of the Holy Trinity
Christmas Flower Fund
Post Office Box 387
Oxford, MD 21654



CHRISTMAS MARKET 2026

A Silent Auction in Honor of a Silent Night

Please visit the Parish Hall starting Sunday, November 29, and bid on one of our extraordinary donations! The auction will remain in place until Noon on December 6. There is a 'Buy now' option. We hope you will join the fun and support our support of our local not-for-profits!

Among our donated items:

- Hand-knit infants' sweaters
- Gabriela Montero Christmas concert tickets with a gift card for dinner in Easton
- Dinner & a movie hosted by Joan Levy & Simon Arnstein
- April tulips combined with a garden consultation with Kathy Gilson
- Linen cut-work placements and napkins
- A lovely hand-pieced Afghan assembled by Oxford's Threaders Group
- And more……

Thank you to a wonderful Parish filled with a generous spirit!