

# THE CHIMES

Trinity Episcopal Church  
815 N. Grant St.  
Bay City, Michigan 48708

December 2023

Volume 26 Issue 11



Dear Trinity Community,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Stores have been set up for Christmas shoppers for weeks and Christmas lights are going up all around town. I think of the joy of the season in the midst of so much suffering in the world today. And so much of the suffering is not necessary.

Then I remember Mary who was so young and so trusting in God. The angel Gabriel came to her and she agreed to be the bearer of God. She didn't know what would come of it and she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was, miraculously, also pregnant.

They must have shared stories, worries, hopes, and dreams. And then Mary had to go back home and face the music with Joseph, her betrothed. How would she get through it? What would happen? How would she be treated in the community?

God intervened in a dream to Joseph and an angel told him it was okay to marry Mary and that it was God's doing.

The trek to Bethlehem for the census was rough at the very end of Mary's pregnancy. Traveling was difficult and so many people had to head to Bethlehem. It would be ten days to two weeks on the road walking and riding on a donkey over the 100 miles to get there. Where would they stay? How would they manage?

As you know, they ended up in an area with all the animals, because there was no place for them in the inn. Amidst the smells and unsanitary conditions, Mary

gave birth to the God who came to save us all. She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger.

No special treatment. No one noticed them. It would only be the shepherds, the outcasts, who would be told by angels that this King had been born in Bethlehem – and they came and saw this miracle.

Maybe you're grieving the loss of a loved one. Maybe you're grieving the loss of your health. Maybe you're grieving and angry over the violence in the world and in the Middle East. Maybe you're lonely. Maybe you feel like no one understands you. Maybe your Christmas won't be as you would like. Or maybe there's some other way you're feeling. Maybe you're are full of joy and anticipation of the Christ child who brings us hope anew.

Whatever is going on in you, Jesus is coming, the one who is to save us all. Whether we are like the outcast shepherds or we are like Mary and Joseph, we are all invited to this miraculous event that brings us hope and joy in our lives.

Like Mary, we don't know what the future holds but we are promised that Jesus will be with us and is saving us right now. Like Mary, we have to get ready for a journey that is uncertain by preparing our hearts to receive more fully the gift of Jesus, God in our midst and await the ride of a lifetime.

In Christ's love, *Rev. Sue*

## *Advent Blessing*

by Ditsie Scobie

In this time of waiting, I bless you to wait well and to wait expectantly. To prepare your hearts for Jesus, to surrender completely to Him and soak in the assurance of His Presence. I bless you to trust Him and to rest in Him, with quietness and intimacy with God.

In this season of hope, I bless you to abound in hope, a hope that is centered in the promises of God. I bless you to be quickened in your hope and have a willingness to share that hope with those who are hope-less.

In this time of peace, I bless you with the peace that comes from the heart of God, the peace that passes all understanding, so that you will walk in peace through all the circumstances of your life.

In this season of light, I bless you to be filled with the light of Christ, to be His candle in the darkness, to shine with His radiance, to be a glorious reflection of him to the world.

In this time of great love, I bless you to be filled to overflowing with the love of God, so that His love would fill in all your dry or empty places and bring a resurgence of life. I bless you to be so saturated with his love that it would flow out to everyone you meet.

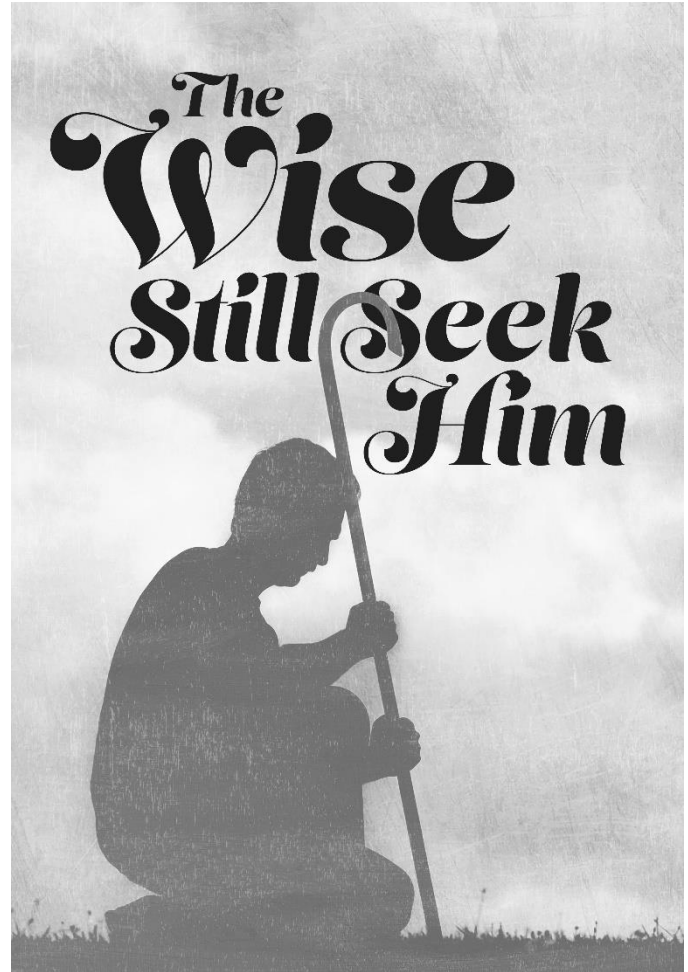
In this season of joy, I bless you with joy abounding to rise up in you like a fountain to splash everywhere you go, to change the atmosphere and touch people's hearts.

I bless you to encounter God in the scriptures in a new and deeper way, with great insight and intimacy.

As our Lord, Emmanuel comes to us, I bless you to know Him, to love Him, and to follow Him closely,

and then to proclaim Him boldly confidently. I bless you to walk in the glory of God through this wonderful and holy Advent season.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



### **THANK YOU**

Pat Maxim for 15 years leading Food of Faith



**THANK YOU**

Chief Elf Mary K Freel and all her helpers for making the Christmas Bazaar such a success.

Historical Guild for rearranging the Guild Room furniture and providing information on the Creche, Cross, and Crown artwork that hangs over the fireplace.

Bruce Sherbeck for painting lines in the parking lot.

Mary K Freel for playing the Tower Chimes for the Bells of Peace on Veterans’ Day.

Rayechel Berger, Patrick Winningham and the Senior Choir for a lovely Thanksgiving Evensong.

All who set up the church for Advent.



**CONGRATULATIONS**

Miles York on getting an 8-point buck with his bow & arrow.



**OUR SYMPATHIES TO**

Sarah Willard on the death of her cousin Shari VanPelt on October 19, 2023.

The family of Mary Roeder who died November 19, 2023.

Mary K Freel on the death of her sister-in-law, Janie Freel, who died November 29, 2023.

Mary Allen on the death of her uncle, Jerry Beiler, who died November 30, 2023.



**Birthdays:**

- Perry Hayhurst
- Isabella Moulthrop
- June Swanson
- Debra Walker
- Shelley Anderson
- Christopher Shannon
- Jeri Anker
- Guy C. Moulthrop
- Carol Fowler
- Heidi Marciniak
- Archie Duncan
- Denise Middleton
- Karen Schmidt
- Thomas Hiss Tabor
- Olivia Moulthrop

**Anniversaries:**

- Ed and Carolyn Pawlaczyk
- Mike and Cathy LaBerge
- James and Susan Hoyle
- Tod and Barbara Meisel
- Dean and Jeri Anker



**SAVE THE DATE**

January 28, 2024 – Annual Meeting after church

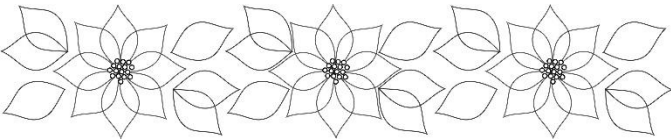


### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SCHEDULE

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. This means that we will have **10am worship for Advent 4** and then our evening worship for Christmas Eve. This year we will have just one **Christmas Eve service at 8:00pm with music at 7:30pm.**

### REMEMBER TRINITY IN YOUR WILL

As a way to offer enduring support ministry here, please consider putting Trinity in your will.



### ALTAR FLOWERS

We have an opening on December 31 for sponsoring Altar flowers. Please contact Elisabeth Campbell if interested.

### FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

Please make sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel, like our Facebook page and then share our events and posts on Facebook. We get lots of views when you share our posts and services!

### PRAYER LIST UPDATES

If you have someone you would like to add to or remove from prayer list, please email [trinitychurchbaycity@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchbaycity@gmail.com) or call 989-892-5813.

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### Sundays:

Worship @ 10am

FOF doors open 1:30, meal served 2:30

**Mondays:** Overeaters Anonymous 10am

**Tuesdays:** Compline online 9pm

#### Wednesdays:

Morning Prayer online 11:30am

#### Thursdays:

Fun & Games 1pm

Senior Choir rehearsal 7pm

Overeaters Anonymous 7pm

Compline online 9pm

**Fridays:** Narcotics Anonymous 7:30pm

### FOOD OF FAITH

Trinity is hosting Food of f

Faith on December 17th and need volunteers to help prepare and serve.

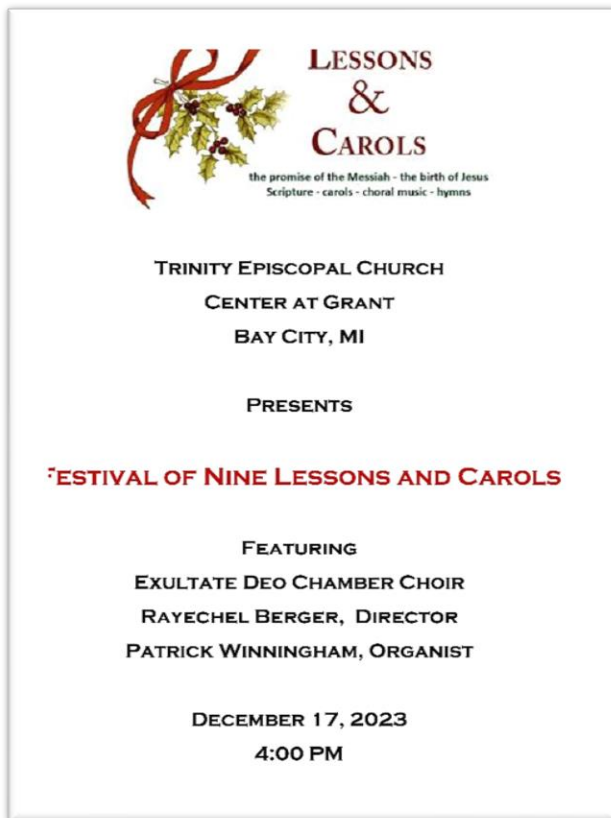
### FROM DIOCESAN CONVENTION





## VESTRY INFORMATION

- Vestry meetings are open to all parishioners and are held on the third Monday at 6:30pm. The next meeting is Monday, December 19, if you would like to attend contact Rev. Sue.
- Our Vestry has 6-9 members, which means 2-3 people are elected each year for a 3-year term. If you are interested in finding out information on what this responsibility entails, please speak with a Vestry member (see list on page 9) or Rev. Sue.



## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Have you changed your address, phone number or other information lately? If so, please make sure that information gets to us! Thank you.

## SPECIAL DECEMBER DATES

- Sunday, December 5, The First Sunday of Advent  
2024 Commitment in-gathering  
Sunday Fun Day making Advent wreaths  
Friends of Music empty can drive
- Tuesday, December 12  
2pm – Finance Committee  
7pm – Christmas Sing-a-Long
- Sunday, December 17, Advent 3  
Christmas flower/FOM forms due  
All-church meeting, in-person & Zoom  
4pm – Exultate Deo Lessons & Carols
- Sunday, December 24  
10am – Advent 4 worship  
11am – set up for Christmas  
7:30pm – music begins  
8:00pm – Christmas Eve Festival Service
- Sunday, December 31  
10am – Christmas Lessons & Carols

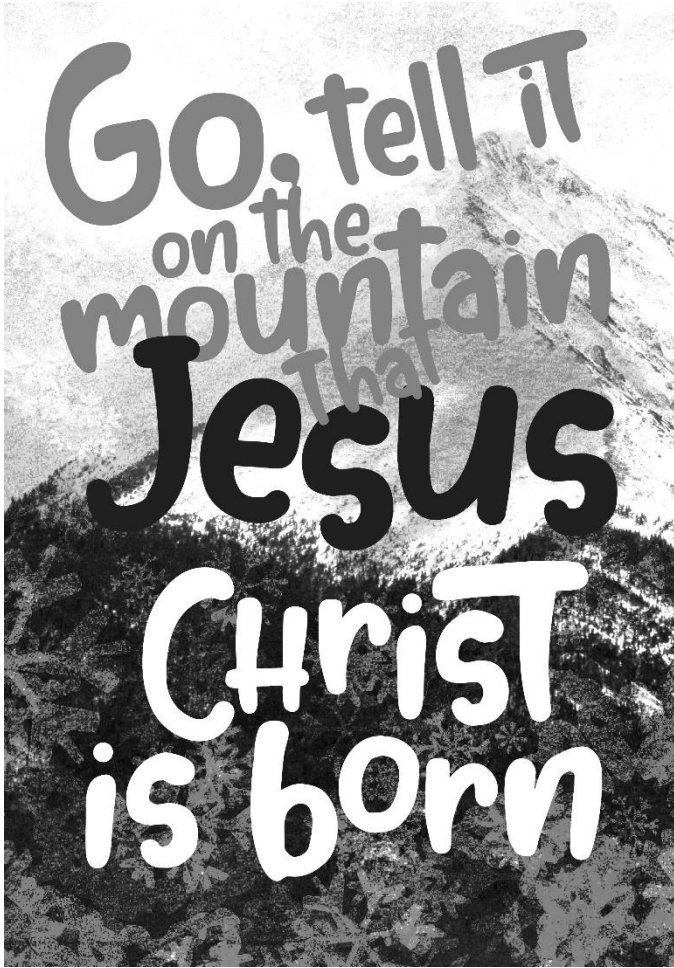


## WORSHIP AT TRINITY

Please note: Our virtual services are live streamed or recorded/preserved to be available to others by way of our website, social media, or other on-line platforms. Even though there is no deliberate attempt to include the congregation in the broadcast or publication, you are hereby notified there is the possibility of your image being shown and your presence and participation constitutes your permission for that to occur.

## ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD

Dec 12 – St. Elizabeth's Guild - cards at 11 - lunch at 12:30 at Doubletree.



### Historical Guild

Thanks to those who submitted Christmas memories. Check out the showcase in the Historical Guild corner to see those memories and pictures - maybe you can pick out some familiar faces!

### FRIENDS OF MUSIC CAN DRIVES

Please save your empty cans for Friends of Music as we begin monthly empty can drives on the first Sunday of the month.



### CONTRIBUTIONS

Your continued financial support of Trinity is greatly appreciated. Your Finance Committee and Vestry continue to work diligently to utilize all resources available to us.

Ways to provide us with your contributions:

- Write and mail a check to Trinity
- IRA contribution
- Go to [www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org](http://www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org), click on the online giving link which will take you to the diocesan webpage.



Trinity Church  
Her People, Her Building  
Then and Now

### *The Advent Wreath*

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church.

In his book, *Straight Answers* (Arlington Catholic Herald; pub.), Fr. William Saunders tells us there is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark days of December as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended sunlight days of Spring. By the Middle Ages, Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

Research by Prof. Haemig of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, credits Johann Hinrich Wichern (1808-1881), a Lutheran pastor and educator in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor, as the inventor of the modern Advent wreath in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During Advent, children at his mission school, Rauhes Haus, in Hamburg, would ask daily if Christmas had arrived. In 1839, he built a large wooden ring (made of an old cartwheel) with 24 small red and 4 large white candles. A small candle was lit successively every weekday and Saturday during Advent. On Sundays, a large white candle was lit.

In Medieval times Advent was a period of fasting during which people's thoughts were directed to the Second Coming of Christ and Judgement Day. Today, though many people think Advent is mainly a lead-up to Christmas, the season, like the word itself, means "coming," and is really about

the *several comings of Christ*: 1) To prepare our hearts remembering His first coming at Bethlehem; 2) To prepare daily for the coming of the Risen Lord; and finally, 3) To look forward to and prepare for Christ's promised Second Coming to judge the living and the dead.

Advent wreaths are circular, representing God's infinite love and eternity and are usually made of evergreen leaves. Within the Advent wreath four candles represent the four weeks of the Advent season as well as the light of Christ coming into the world. They also symbolize the Christian virtues of hope, peace, joy and love. In some churches three purple candles remind us that Advent is a penitential season and the one rose-colored candle symbolizes joy. Other churches have three blue candles and one pink/rose-colored candle, or simply four blue candles, and reflect a season of hope and joyful expectation.



Above, the Advent wreath at Trinity Church. The larger white candle in the middle of the Advent wreath is the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Eve. All the other candles are then changed to white and remain so during the season of Christmastide.

Faithfully submitted by the Historical Guild

**OFFICE HOURS**

By appointment

**WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE**

In-person and Online:

Sunday-10:00 AM – Holy Communion

Online only:

Wednesday-11:30 AM – Morning Prayer

Tues & Thurs-9:00 PM – Compline

**FOOD OF FAITH**

Sundays: 1:30 PM – Doors open

2:30PM – Meal served

**OFFICE HOURS**

By appointment

**CONTACT US**

**Office Telephone:** (989) 892-5813

**Cell Phone:** (989) 326-0469

**E-mail:**

[trinitychurchbaycity@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchbaycity@gmail.com)

**Web Site:**

[www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org](http://www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org)

**Facebook:**

Trinity-Episcopal-Church-Bay-City

**YouTube:**

Trinity Episcopal Church Bay City

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To encourage growth through fellowship, follow the teachings of Jesus, and reach out to our community through prayer and service.

**VISION STATEMENT**

We strive to grow the body of Christ by being a welcoming, vibrant, service-based faith community that actively lives our values, especially the commandment to “love God and our neighbor.”

**VESTRY**

Senior Warden – Archie Duncan

Junior Warden – Don Middleton

Clerk/Secretary – Dan Keeler

Michelle Hunsberger

Mickie Leibrand

Carolyn Pawlaczyk

Patrick Gray

Treasurer

**DIOCESE**

The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams

Bishop Provisional

**CLERGY**

The Rev. Susan C. Rich

Rector

**STAFF**

Mrs. Rayechel Berger

Choir Director

Mr. Terry J. Oliver

Sexton

Mrs. Brenda Weaver

Bookkeeper

Mr. Patrick Winningham

Congregational

Accompanist

**CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER STAFF**

Faith Culler

Michelle Hunsberger

Bruce Sherbeck

Carolyn Pawlaczyk

Chimes Editor

Pat Maxim

Web Site Manager



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Donations to Trinity's Christmas Poinsettia fund provides the flower arrangements we enjoy during the Christmas Season. Please give a minimum gift of \$20.00.



**FRIENDS OF MUSIC**

Donations to Trinity's Friends of Music fund help to support the fine music we enjoy at Christmas and throughout the year. Please give generously.



**DUE DECEMBER 17, 2023**

Your name(s):

**DUE DECEMBER 17, 2023**

Your name(s):

Contact #:

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Trinity Episcopal Christmas Poinsettia Fund.

\_\_\_\_\_ **In grateful thanksgiving for:**

Contact #:

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Trinity Episcopal Church Friends of Music.

\_\_\_\_\_ **In grateful thanksgiving for:**

**And/Or \_\_\_\_\_ In loving memory of:**

**And/Or \_\_\_\_\_ In loving memory of:**

Please make checks to Trinity Episcopal Church. Mark on the check "Christmas Poinsettias." Please seal your check and a copy of this form in an envelope and return to Trinity at 815 N. Grant St., Bay City, 48708.

Please make checks to Trinity Episcopal Church. Mark on the check "Friends of Music." Please seal your check and a copy of this form in an envelope and return to Trinity at 815 N. Grant St., Bay City, 48708.

**Office Use:**

**Date donation was received:**

Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Office Use:**

**Date donation was received:**

Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**815 North Grant Street**  
**Bay City, Michigan**

