

**CHURCH OF THE TRINITY  
Coatesville  
in the  
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania**

*Church of the Trinity is a congregation  
rooted in the faith and love of Christ,  
unified in diversity,  
seeking to grow and nourish  
the Trinity family and our Coatesville community.*



*"...you must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."*

**November 27, 2022**

**9:30 AM**

First Sunday of Advent

## PRELUDE

### Entrance Rite

#### ENTRANCE HYMN *Rejoice! rejoice, believers (Llangloffan) (H 68)*

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (SEE HANDOUT/ATTACHED)

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant*      Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People*        You come to your people and set them free.

## SONG OF PRAISE (THE HYMNAL 1982 #96) *Angels we have heard on high (Gloria)* (H 96)

*Refrain*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system shows the vocal melody and piano accompaniment for the word 'Gloria'. The second system continues the melody with the words 'in ex-cel-sis De-o. Glo-'. The third system concludes the phrase with 'ria in ex-cel-sis De-o.' The piano accompaniment features arpeggiated chords and sustained notes, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C).

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

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.*

## The Lessons

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## **PSALM: Psalm 122**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, \*

**"Let us go to the house of the LORD."**

<sup>2</sup>Now our feet are standing \*

**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city \*

**that is at unity with itself;**

<sup>4</sup>To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, \*

**the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment, \*

**the thrones of the house of David.**

<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
**"May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls \*  
**and quietness within your towers.**

<sup>8</sup>For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
**I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*  
**I will seek to do you good."**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ( CHRIST IS COMING - LEVAS 6)**

*Christ is coming. Prepare the Way.*

*Christ is coming. Prepare the Way.*

*Christ is coming. Christ is coming.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

*All stand.*

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] <sup>36</sup>"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON BY THE REV. SHERRY DEETS**

### **THE NICENE CREED**

*All rise as you are able.*

*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 the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All remain standing.*

*God calls us to love one another. As a sign of that love, let us lift up our prayer to God for the needs of all people throughout the world, saying: O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war any more. O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, that we may become more and more a means of grace and peace in the world. O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of darkness, that we may be enlightened through our service of others in the name of Christ. O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, especially for those listed that are near to our hearts, and those we now name silently or out loud (a period of silence):

*Violet Armstead, Clair Armstrong, Angie Ashe, Molly Baldwin, Marsha Barley, Marie Hyacinthe Bribal, Anthony Brogan, Walter Bryant, Carol, Carolyn, Lola Clarke, Millie Connor, Didi, Dorothy, Andrea Dudley, Ellie, Charles Emmett, Morris Ferguson, Karen Fisher, Mary Fleck, Cassie Foreman, Kyla Foreman, Jacob Furlong, Bianca Giannotti, Ruth Gardiner, Linda Graber, Samantha Griggs, Erika Haak, Lillian Hadler, Susan Hanft, Scott Hansberry, Esther Harvey, Matt Hess, Hannah Heyward, Janice, Danyell Jackson, Jay, Pete Jennings, Diane Kitson, Jodi Lancaster, Alison Lauren, John and Lindsay, Lisa Kivett, Sye Lamar, Melanie Lifer, Olivia Lyons, Paige McClean, Kevin McGloon, Mia, Mickey, Brian Miller, Tracy Mulligan, Adam Nolt, Jessica Nupponen, Meredith Olseski, April Phillips, Ben Phillips, Antonia Planamento, Lynn Pullman, Arlene Purnsley, Michael Rayner, Jacob Rockoff, Flora Rutledge, Judy Skoniczin, Shane, Thomas Shanley, Mary Shidlowski, Erma Sinsabaugh, Barb Smelter, Stephen Smelter, Calvin Smith, Robin Spicher, Colby Stackhouse, Debra Stackwicz, Stephanie, Linda Still, Sue, Becky Swaggart, Dihona Talton and children, Bill Terry, Evans Thompson, Tom, Tom Wagner, Vicki Romberger, Norman Walters, Cyndi Walters, Isaac Warnick, Sally Warren, Paul Wayne, Mary Nell Weiss, Chanel Wiest, Brendan Willauer, Ruby Williams*  
that we may be alert to the presence of Christ in them and ready to reach out in love. O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who protect and serve, as well as their families: the police, the firefighters, emergency medical personnel and those serving in the military, especially those listed that are near to our hearts and those we name silently or out loud (a period of silence):

*Police: Sgt Lori and Jeff Kistle, Marquis Costello*

*Military: PVT Austin Combs, PO2 Jason Combs, PO3 Andrew Combs, ICPT Corey Combs, Skylar Dantzler, MAJ Alex Deets, Seaman William Dowling, 1st LT Frank Furman, Jr., PFC Shane McWilliams, MGSgt Troy Meacham, PVT Kaleel Pernsley, Specialist Jason Sage, CPL Ryan Sage, CPT*

*Jeremy Smith, LCMDR Michael Sracic MC, and MSgt Rewa Price*

O God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For those in our parish family celebrating birthdays this week: Nora Bush and Caroline Kirwin. O God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We pray for all who are assembled here today, that we may be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ and go forth from this place to be Christ in the world. O God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We pray for all who have asked for our prayers that we may faithfully wait upon God with confidence in that love which sustains us in every moment of our lives. O God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

May God be with those who will die this day, and for the beloved dead whom we have entrusted to you, especially Carolyn Gordy Swett, for whom the altar flowers are given; that you will be present to them, speaking your name in comfort and in power. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*We praise you, Lord our God, that you have called us to be your people and the instruments of your presence in the world. Grant us grace to discern your will and the strength to do it, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

***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.***

*The Priest stands and says*

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

## **THE PEACE**

*All stand.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

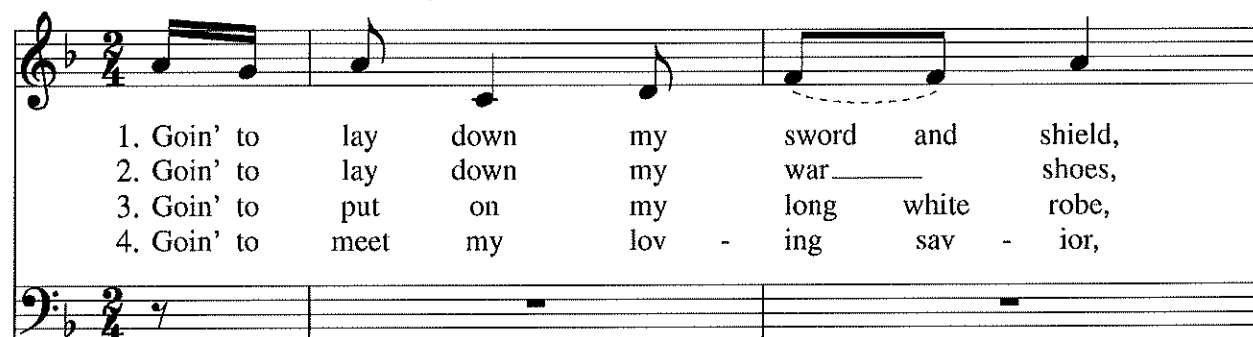
# The Holy Communion

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

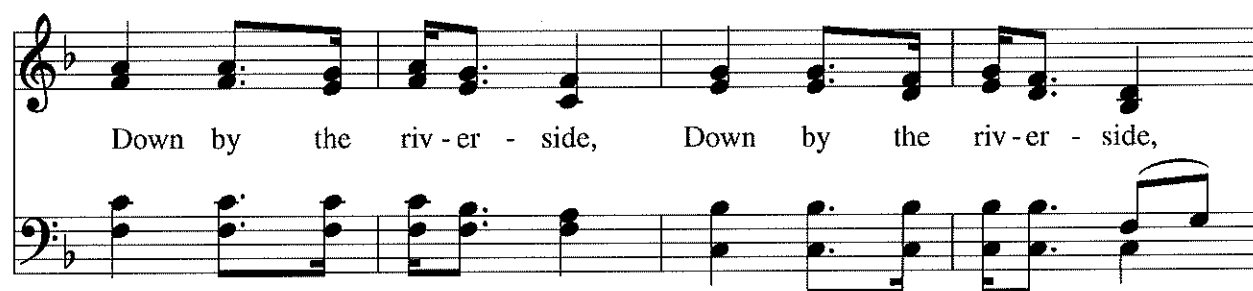
*The Celebrant says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

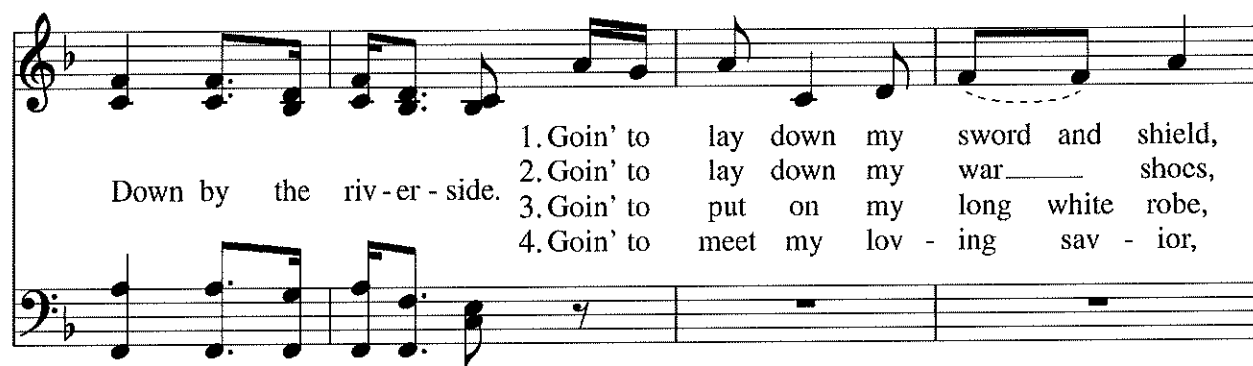
## OFFERTORY HYMN *Down by the Riverside* (LEVAS 210)



1. Goin' to lay down my sword and shield,  
2. Goin' to lay down my war \_\_\_\_\_ shoes,  
3. Goin' to put on my long white robe,  
4. Goin' to meet my lov - ing sav - ior,

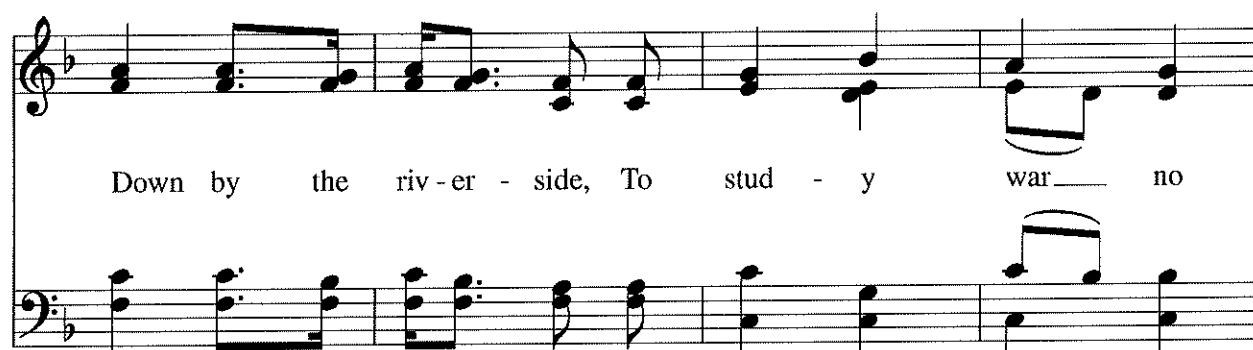


Down by the riv - er - side, Down by the riv - er - side,



Down by the riv - er - side.

1. Goin' to lay down my sword and shield,  
2. Goin' to lay down my war \_\_\_\_\_ shoes,  
3. Goin' to put on my long white robe,  
4. Goin' to meet my lov - ing sav - ior,



Down by the riv - er - side, To stud - y war \_\_\_\_\_ no



I ain't goin't

more. \_\_\_\_\_ stud - y war no more, Ain't goin't

stud - y war no more, Ain't goin't stud - y \_\_\_\_\_ war no

I ain't goin't

more, \_\_\_\_\_ stud - y war no more, Ain't goin't

stud - y war no more, \_\_\_\_\_

stud - y war no more, Ain't goin't stud - y war no \_\_\_\_\_ more. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Celebrant* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

## **THE HYMNAL 1982 SERVICE MUSIC #S 125**

*Celebrant and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest***

*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Cyril, our Patron Saint, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER LEVAS #264

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing.

*People and Celebrant*

*Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## The Breaking of the Bread

### FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia! Be known to us Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

*Be known to us Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia!*

### INVITATION

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### COMMUNION HYMN *Signs of endings all around us (Ton-y-Botel) (WLP 721)*

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us—dark - ness, death, and win - ter days  
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?  
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad-ness, numb-ing mouths that long to praise.  
Life from death, and from our rend-ings, realms of whole-ness gen-er-ate?  
Swell our hearts with songs of glad-ness, ter-rors calm fore-bod-ings still.

Come, O Christ, and dwell a-mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.  
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in-to hopes for life a-new:  
Let your prom-ised realm of jus-tice blos-som now through-out the earth;

Give us hope and faith and glad-ness. Show us what there yet can be.  
Fad-ing light and dy-ing sea-son sing their Glo-ri-as to you.  
your do-min-ion bring now near us; we a-wait the sav-ing birth.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

*God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## BLESSING

### CLOSING HYMN *Glorious things of thee are spoken (Abbot's Leigh) (H 523)*



1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty  
 2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -  
 3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and  
 4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

of our God; he whose word can - not be bro - ken  
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters  
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a cov - ering,  
 deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re - ly on,

formed thee for his own a - bode; on the Rock of A - ges  
 and all fear of want re - move. Who can faint, when such a  
 show - ing that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their  
 makes them kings and priests to God. 'Tis his love his peo - ple

found-ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose? With sal -  
 riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace which,  
 ban - ner, light by night, and shade by day, safe they  
 rais - es o - ver self to reign as kings: and as

va - tion's walls sur-round-ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
 like the Lord, the giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.  
 feed up - on the man - na which he gives them when they pray.  
 priests, his sol - emn prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

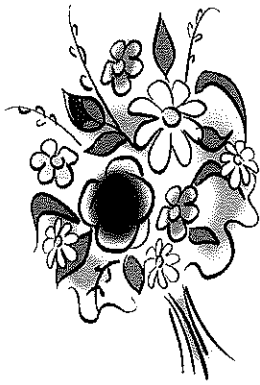
## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

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## TODAY



The flowers are placed on the altar to the Glory of God  
and in loving memory of

***Carolyn Gordy Swett***

by  
Tom Swett

*Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord; and let light perpetual  
shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace*

### **Announcements:**

**Healing Service**, Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at Noon, via Zoom. Commemorating Charles de Foucauld, Hermit and Martyr in the Sahara, 1916

**Angel Tree.** Our little Christmas “Angel Tree” is up with tags of children in the Coatesville area who could use some Trinity love. These gifts are for children who have an incarcerated parent. The tags have the names of the children, their ages and gift wishes. If you take a tag, please wrap the gift(s) and attach that angel tag securely to the outside of the gift.

**Christmas Caroling in downtown Coatesville, Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 2 p.m. an ecumenical group will be Christmas Caroling in downtown Coatesville. We meet at 1:45 p.m. in front of Trinity. This is a fun experience! Join in! Song sheets are provided.

**Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** in our social hall. Breakfast with Santa is back inside this year with a start time of 8:30 am to 11 a.m. A wonderful breakfast and time to say ‘hello’ to Santa as he visits us from the North Pole! Adults \$10, Children 5-12 \$6 and Children under 4 are free.

**Retirement Party for Deacon Joan Wylie, Sunday, December 18** after the church service. Deacon Joan is retiring from Trinity at year end and we want to send her off in good Trinity fashion with a gathering after the church service on December 18<sup>th</sup> in Stone Hall.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8 p.m., Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Teddy Bears for the Teddy Bear Ministry are available to give to someone who could use a little Trinity love.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRINITY**

**323 East Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320  
610-384-4771**

**Email: revsherrydeets@aol.com  
Office Email: Trinitycoates@aol.com  
Website: www.trinitycoatesville.org**

**Parish Administrator Office Hours:**

**Monday – Friday 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Rector: The Reverend Sherry Deets  
Home Phone: 610-380-0462  
Email: revsherrydeets@aol.com**

**Organist and Choirmaster: Rachel Lee Anemone  
Deacon: The Rev. Joan Wylie  
Parish Administrator: Jamoca Harkins**

**VESTRY**

**Sr. Warden: Chris Haak  
Jr. Warden: Dennis Dantzler  
Treasurer: Minnie Kirwin**

**Greg Bentley  
Nora Bush  
Donna Fleck  
Jennifer Grubb  
Joseph Lee  
Vic Shanley  
Tom Swett  
Betty Sullivan  
Bill Terry  
Michael Thompson**



## **THE PROPHET'S CANDLE OF HOPE**

### **First Sunday of Advent**

**Leader:** Today begins a four-week journey to Christmas and we begin our Advent work of watching, waiting and preparing. Each week, as the frenzied pace toward Christmas grows busier, louder and more insistent, we will gather in this holy spot where our hearts can find rest. We will light the candles of Advent and take a few quiet moments to contemplate and meditate and hope.

**People:** ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel...***  
(sung a cappella)

**Leader:** This first Sunday of Advent we light the Prophet's Candle of Hope. The Old Testament prophets urge us to prepare for the coming Messiah – a Messiah who not only brings light to a cold and darkened world, but whose warmth and light can stretch into even the deepest crevice of our personal darkness. We wait in hope and expectation.

**People:** ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel...***  
(sung a cappella)

**Leader:** As we light the Prophet's Candle of Hope, we hear the echo of the prophet Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2) The time of salvation is at hand and the Messiah is on his way!

**All:** ***God of Hope, thank you for sending your son, Jesus Christ, to help us know we are Children of Light and no longer a people who walk in darkness. Give us strength to follow the example of the prophets of old who were ready and expectant. Be known to us during these Advent days that we may feel a keen awareness of the light of your love. Amen.***