

**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.*



*"He will...gather his elect from the four winds..."*

**December 3, 2023**

**9:30 AM**

The First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

# Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending (St. Thomas) (H 58)*

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful  
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,  
bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ial  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,  
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,  
claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ial

Al - le - lu - ial Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ial Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

## 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*

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 64:1-9

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>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!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

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

*Silence may follow.*

## PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, \*  
**how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
**the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>17</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
**give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

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

#### **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: Mark 13:24-37**

*All stand.*

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

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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.

<sup>28</sup>“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. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very

gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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.*

*At the beginning of this Advent season, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, have mercy.*

That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may discover God's word in every sound of this world, God's touch in every human embrace, and God's love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may come to recognize in our holy assembly gathered for prayer that Jesus the Christ is with us here to make our songs of praise and pleading his own, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That divine energy and holy grace may bring our hearts to vigilance and make us see with uncovered eyes the Christ who suffers in his people's agonies, we pray for those who are sick and suffering, especially those listed who are near to hearts, and those we now name silently or out loud (*a period of silence*):

*Violet Armstead, Clair Armstrong, Angie Ashe, Bob Austin, Molly Baldwin, Marsha Barley, Marie Hyacinthe Bribal, Anthony Brogan, Walter Bryant, Carol, Carolyn, Lola Clarke, Betsy Comstock, Millie Connor, Didi, Dorothy, Andrea Dudley, Ellie, Charles Emmett, Morris Ferguson, Karen Fisher, Cassie*

Foreman, Kyla Foreman, Jacob Furlong, Bianca Giannotti, Linda Graber, Samantha Griggs, Sam Haak, Lillian Hadler, Susan Hanft, Scott Hansberry, Esther Harvey, Matt Hess, Janice, Danyell Jackson, Jay, Jennifer Jenkins, Pete Jennings, Diane Kitson, Jodi Lancaster, Alison Lauren, John and Lindsay, Lisa, Lisa Kivett, Sye Lamar, Melanie Lifer, Olivia Lyons, Paige McClean, Kevin McGlooin, Jennifer McNeil, Mia, Mickey, Brian Miller, Tracy Mulligan, Bruce Murray, Adam Nolt, Jessica Nupponen, Meredith Olseski, Betty Peirce, Stan Pernesley, April Phillips, Ben Phillips, Antonia Planamento, Lynn Pullman, Arlene Purnsley, Michael Rayner, Jacob Rockoff, Thomas Rubinaccio, Dick Skoniczin, Shane, Thomas Shanley, Mary Shidlowksi, Erma Sinsabaugh, Barb Smelter, Stephen Smelter, Robin Spicher, Colby Stackhouse, Debra Stackwicz, Stephanie, Linda Still, Sue, Becky Swaggart, Dihona Talton and children, 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, Donna Zahorchak

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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 here that are near to our hearts and those we name silently or out loud (*a period of silence*):

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

*Military: PVT Austin Combs, PO2 Jason Combs, PO3 Andrew Combs, 1CPT Corey Combs, Skylar Dantzler, MAJ Alex Deets, Petty Officer William Dowling, 1st LT Frank Furman, Jr., J. Andrew Hinkle, PFC Shane McWilliams, MGSgt Troy Meacham, Sgt Kaleel Pernesley, Specialist Jason Sage, CPT Jeremy Smith, LCMDR Michael Sracic MC, and MSgt Rewa Price*

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in our parish family celebrating birthdays this week: Samuel Haak, Ann Furlong and Bella Baynard. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That God's coming into the days and years of our human history may be always new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who will die this day, and for the beloved dead whom we have entrusted to you, especially for Maitland L. Harvey, for whom the altar flowers are given; that you will be present to them, speaking your name in comfort and in power. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus, the Christ. 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.*

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*         **And also with you.**

*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 *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* (LEVAS 18)

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, Com - ing for to car - ry me home.

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 2/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, Com - ing for to car - ry me home. **Fine**

The second system of musical notation for the hymn. It continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The word 'Fine' is written at the end of the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

The third system of musical notation for the hymn, showing the final notes of the melody and bass line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you get \_\_\_\_\_ there be - fore \_\_\_\_\_ I do, \_\_\_\_\_
3. The bright - est day that \_\_\_\_\_ ev - er I saw \_\_\_\_\_
4. I'm some - times up and \_\_\_\_\_ some - times down, \_\_\_\_\_

1. Com-ing for to car-ry me home. A band of an-gels  
 2. Com-ing for to car-ry me home. Tell all my friends I'm  
 3. Com-ing for to car-ry me home. When Je-sus wash'd my  
 4. Com-ing for to car-ry me home. But still my soul feels

*D.C.*

1. com-ing af-ter me,— Com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,  
 2. com-ing too,— Com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,  
 3. sins a-way,— Com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,  
 4. heaven-ly bound,— Com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* 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!*

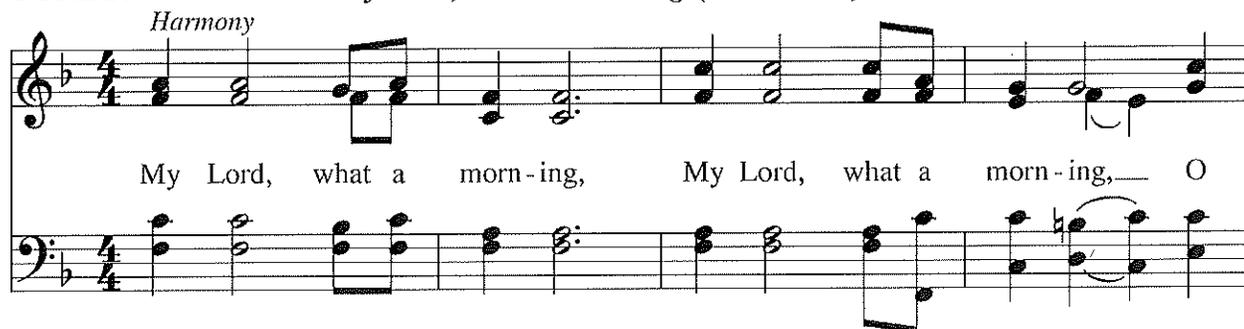
### INVITATION

*The Celebrant says*

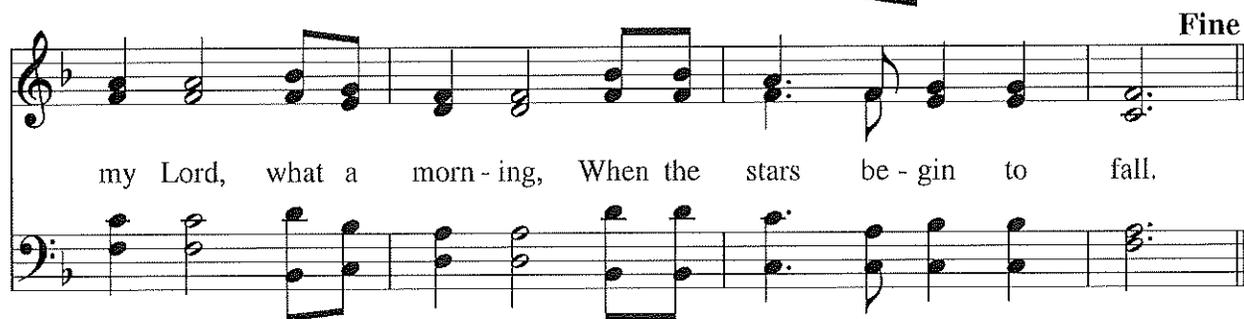
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### COMMUNION HYMN *My Lord, What a Morning* (LEVAS 13)

*Harmony*



My Lord, what a morn - ing, My Lord, what a morn - ing, O



my Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to fall. **Fine**

*Unison*



1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, \_\_\_\_\_ To wake the  
3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, \_\_\_\_\_

na - tions un - der - ground, \_\_\_\_\_ Look - ing to my God's right

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall. D.C.

**ANTHEM BY CHOIR**

**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 forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

**BLESSING**

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Hail to the Lord's Anointed (Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein)* (H 616)**

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,  
 4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;  
 5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
 2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:  
 4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;  
 5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:

1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;  
 2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
 3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
 4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;  
 5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.  
 3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.  
 4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.  
 5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

**DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

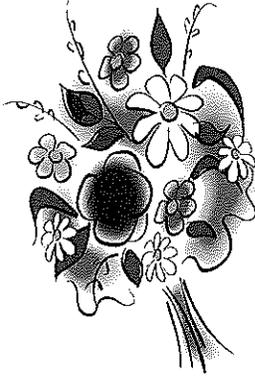
*People*

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE**

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**TODAY**  
*Christmas Caroling around the downtown – 1:45 p.m.*



The flowers are placed on the altar to the Glory of God  
and in Loving Memory of

*Maitland L. Harvey*

by  
Esther and Dana Harvey

**Announcements:**

**Dec 7 – NO Healing Service**

**Breakfast With Santa, Saturday, December 9** in Trinity's parish hall. 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

*The Sounds of Christmas* Recital by Rachel Anemone on **Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.** – 7:30 p.m. Reception to Follow. Free will offering to benefit Trinity

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec 24 at 8 p.m., NO Sunday morning service.**

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

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**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRINITY**  
323 East Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320  
610-384-4771

**Office Email: [Trinitycoates@aol.com](mailto:Trinitycoates@aol.com)**  
**Website: [www.trinitycoatesville.org](http://www.trinitycoatesville.org)**

**Parish Administrator Office Hours:**

**Monday – Thursday: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Friday: Office Closed**

**Rector: The Reverend Sherry Deets**  
**Home Phone: 610-380-0462**  
**Email: [revsherrydeets@aol.com](mailto:revsherrydeets@aol.com)**

**Organist and Choirmaster: Rachel Lee Anemone**  
**Parish Administrator: Jamoca Harkins**  
**Community Engagement Coordinator: Liz Hulse ([liztrinity323@gmail.com](mailto:liztrinity323@gmail.com))**

**VESTRY**

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

**Greg Bentley**  
**Nora Bush**  
**Donna Fleck**  
**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.*

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**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.*