

Trinity Episcopal Church, Collinsville, CT  
Sunday, December 21, 2025,  
9:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Service of the Word



*Lighting the Advent Wreath*  
*The Candle of Love*

*MISSION STATEMENT: "With God's love, we joyfully welcome and nourish all;  
with God's help, we serve our community and  
beyond."*

# Welcome to Trinity

We welcome all who worship with us at Trinity Episcopal Church in Collinsville, CT -- those here in our sanctuary and those who join us by live-streaming.

Please know that your presence and your prayers are a beloved gift to this faith community. We pray that you sense the love of Christ, the stirring of the Holy Spirit, and God's presence here.

## Live-Streaming on the Web

To join our services by live-streaming, go to our website:

<https://trinitycollinsville.org>

Scroll down to the section that says "Join us on Sundays", click on "Worship with Us", then click on the service to watch.

From "Join us on Sundays", you can also access the Bulletins and Readings for the service and the Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday, December 21, 2025  
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Service of the Word  
Presider: Stan Moraski

Prelude

Opening Hymn   Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus   #66

*Words: Charles Wesley, Music: William Henry Havergal*

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## Welcome

**Presider:** As we are now in the season of Advent, we'll  
begin our service with Lighting the Advent  
Wreath.

## Lighting the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Love

**Reader:** Sandy Thibault

**Candle Lighting:** Robin Mengual

**Choir Sings:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel, verse 7

## Opening Acclamation

**Presider:** Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**People:** And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever.  
Amen.

## Collect for Purity (in unison)

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.

Trisagion *(sing this three times)*

S102

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

## The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Old Testament

## Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz, said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God

## The Psalm

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

**Reader:** Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**People:** In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

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

**People:** O Lord God of hosts how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

**Reader:** You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**People:** You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

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

**People:** Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

**Reader:** And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

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

## The Epistle

## Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised

beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

All stand for the Alleluia verse





## The Gospel

## Matthew 1:18-25

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
And they shall name him Emmanuel,"  
which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had born a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Presider:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Homily**

**Stan Moraski**

(A period of silence is kept.)

**Choir Anthem A Maiden Most Gentle**

Music: Andrew Carter

**The Nicene Creed (in unison) (all stand) BCP p. 358**

**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.

# Choral Call to Prayer O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Words and Music: Francesco Blackmore

## The Prayers of the People Form III BCP p. 387

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Reader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

**Reader:** Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**People:** That they may be delivered from their distress.

**Reader:** Give to the departed eternal rest.

**People:** Let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Reader:** We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**People:** May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

**Reader:** We pray especially for those on our intercession list \_\_\_\_\_, and for those named here.  
(pause for the congregation to add their intercessions).

**Reader:** In your mercy.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, let us pray for Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's Bridgeport; for the children of the world and all ECCT ministries for children at risk. We also pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for peace in the world:  
God of peace and justice, we pray for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East, in Ukraine and Russia, and in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. We pray for all in these wars who have died, are wounded or missing. We pray for all who grieve, live in fear, and wait anxiously for the return of their loved ones. We pray for those who protect and defend our country. May your kingdom of justice and peace reign throughout the world.

Presider: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Offering

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

### Offertory Hymn The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

**#265** Words: Sabine Baring-Gould, Music: Edgar Pettman

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

2 "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say—  
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

The Doxology                      Old 100<sup>th</sup>                      Hymn 380 Verse 3

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

**Presider:** All things come of thee, O Lord.

**People:** And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Presider:** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## Musical Offering Christmas Time is Here

Music: Vince Guaraldi

Dawn Lowell, Soprano

Diane Terry, Mezzo Soprano

## The Peace

**Presider:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## Announcements

## The Grace

**Presider:** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the  
love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

# Closing Hymn    Soon and Very Soon    LEVAS #14

Music: Andraé Crouch

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
we are goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
we are goin' to see the King!

3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
we are goin' to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
we're are goin' to see the King!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

## The Dismissal

**Presider:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

**People:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia

## Postlude

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The Altar Flowers and the Sanctuary Lamp  
are Given to the Glory of God.

**Celebrating the Worship Service**

The People of God gathered in Trinity Church  
and at home.

Presider:	Stan Moraski
Reader:	Jack Henne
Usher:	Deb Asaro
Altar Guild:	Deb Asaro, Linda Burgess and Nell Bonnett
Music:	Francesco Blackmore, Director and The Trinity Choir
Lighting the Advent Wreath: Sandra Thibault and Robin Mengual	

## December and January Services

Sunday, Dec 21 9:00 -10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Advent 4 – Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle of Love Service of the Word - Presider: Stan Moraski Greening of the Church. Help us decorate for Christmas!
Wednesday, Dec 24 4:00 -5:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II Celebrant: The Rev. Claudia Scheda
Thursday, Dec 25 10:00 a.m.	<b>Christmas Day - The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> Morning Prayer at St. John's, Pine Meadow Merry Christmas to you, your family and friends!
Sunday, Dec 28 9:00 -10:00 a.m. 10:00 -11:00 a.m.	<b>A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols</b> Presider: Stan Moraski Coffee Hour with leftover Christmas cookies
Sunday, Jan 4 9:00 -10:00 a.m.	Christmas 2 - Service of the Word Presider: Stan Moraski
Sunday, Jan 11 9:00 -10:00 a.m.	Epiphany 1 - Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II Baptism of Jesus and Renewal of our Baptismal Vows Celebrant: The Rev. Claudia Scheda
Sunday, Jan 18 9:00 -10:00 a.m.	Epiphany 2 - Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II Celebrant: The Rev. Salin Low
Sunday, Jan 25 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. After the Service	Epiphany 3 - Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II Celebrant: The Rev. Claudia Scheda <b>Trinity's Annual Meeting with Coffee and Goodies</b>

## December-January - Events Calendar

<b>Mon, Dec 22</b>	Canton Food Bank Open 6–7 pm
<b>Tues, Dec 23</b>	Canton Food Bank Open 8:00–11 am
<b>Dec 29-30</b>	Canton Food Bank and Miriam’s Closet Closed
<b>Mon, Jan 5</b> 6:00–7:00 pm	Canton Food Bank open
<b>Tues, Jan 6</b> 8:00–11:00 am	Canton Food Bank open
<b>Mon, Jan 12</b> 6:00–7:00 pm	Canton Food Bank open
<b>Tues, Jan 13</b> 8:00–11:00 am	Canton Food Bank open
<b>Mon, Jan 19</b> 6:00–7:00 pm	Canton Food Bank open
<b>Tues, Jan 20</b> 8:00–11:00 am	Canton Food Bank open
<b>Wed, Jan 21</b> 7:00 - 8:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
<b>Thurs, Jan 22</b> 10:00–11:00 am	Worship Committee Meeting
<b>Sun, Jan 25</b>	<b>Trinity's Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Mon, Jan 26</b> 6:00–7:00 pm	Canton Food Bank open
<b>Tues, Jan 27</b> 8:00–11:00 am	Canton Food Bank open

## **THE PARISH OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

P.O. Box 374 – 55 River Road

Collinsville, Connecticut 06022-0374

The Rev. Claudia Scheda, Rector 959-799-1515

Email: rectorstjohntrinity@gmail.com Facebook: RevClaudiaScheda  
(Sabbath Day: Monday)

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Parish Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Email: office@trinitycollinsville.org Phone: 860-693-8172

### **WORSHIP**

Sundays at 9 a.m. – Livestreamed / In-Person

Please visit our website for more information

### **STAFF**

The Rev. Claudia Scheda, Rector

Francesco Blackmore, Director of Music Ministry

Carol Leichner – Communication Coordinator

Norman Robinson – Sexton

### **VESTRY**

Maryellen Prudhomme – Sr. Warden 860-463-6281 or

maryellenprudhomme@gmail.com

Bruce Quigley – Jr. Warden

Jim Stapleton – Treasurer

Heather Garvin – Clerk

2026: Jack Henne, Laurie Barnhart, Mimi McGill

2027: Ann Bierut, Lisa Bogush

2028: Stan Moraski

### **TRINITY NURSERY SCHOOL 860-693-4615**

Lee Ann Delaney, Kathryn Gentile, Wendy Young