Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry

300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 919-942-2678 | holytrinitychapelhill.org



Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
8:30am – Livestream & In Person
11am – In Person

Holy Trinity is "Mask-Friendly" for all in-person activities.

Whichever your preference regarding mask usage, you are welcome here.

We celebrate an open table for Holy Communion. Please see the back page for more information.

Please note that our 8:30am service is Livestreamed and broadcast on our YouTube channel.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministries is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Eno, Lumbee, Shakori, Skaruhreh/Tuscarora peoples, and we acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called and continue to call this land their home.

PRELUDE The Reign of Mercy Porter's Gate (8:30)

Oh may our world at last be just
And hilltops echo with Your peace
The harvest come from barren dust
The reign of mercy never cease
He comes as rain upon the grass
High heaven's sun to earth descends
Not as the seasons that will pass
But with a light that never ends

Oh come to Him and find your rest Who saw the poor and came as one Who hears the cries of the oppressed And rules till all oppression's done

© 2021 Integrity's Alleluia! Music; Kate Bluett Music; Paul Zach Publishing

Someday He'll come to reign as King And we will see His justice done Our souls will magnify and sing The Christ whose kingdom now is come

And all the mighty and the strong
Will bow before Him on that day
The silenced fill the world with song
The poor and lowly He will raise
And all our bitterness and tears
Our violence and our endless wars
Will end at last when He draws near
Come soon come soon O Christ our Lord

V. Cantilena and II. Trio from Partita on "HYFRYDOL" by David Lasky (11)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. \oplus You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**



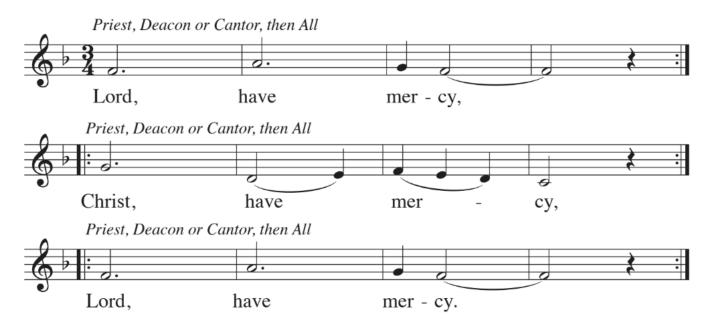
3

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Rejoice in the Lord! Water breaks forth in the wilderness!

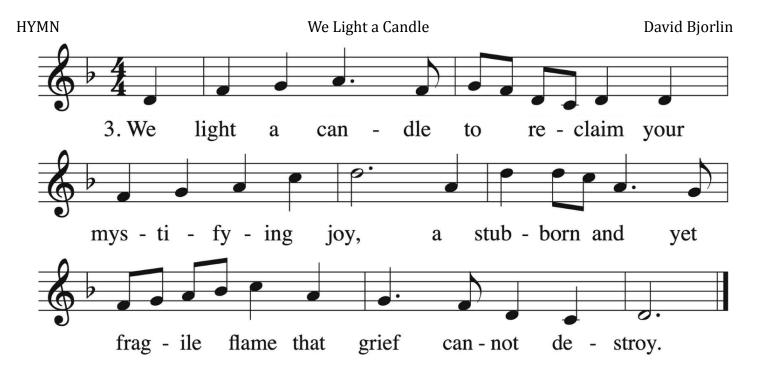
We arise as joyful, resilient people of God.

Rejoice in the Lord! The hungry are filled with good things!

We arise as joyful, resilient people of God.

Rejoice in the Lord! Be filled with everlasting joy!

We arise as joyful, resilient people of God.



Words Copyright © 2024 GIA Publications, Inc. • All rights reserved

Let us pray,

God who gives us reasons to sing, as we light these candles, awaken us to the Advent of your coming. Open our hearts to receive the good news of Christ's coming. Heal us from our grief and despair. Remind us of the promise of your presence, Emmanuel, God with us. Come, Emmanuel, come. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people;

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

MAGNIFICAT: Luke 1:46-55

- ⁴⁶ And Mary said,
 - "My soul magnifies the Lord,
 - ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 - ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
 - ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;
 - ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
 - ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 - ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;
 - ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
 - ⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
 - 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

A reading from James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor, Congregation, Verse, Congregation 2X



GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Deacon Holly Shipley



Copyright © 2020 GIA Publications, Inc. • All rights reserved

From text author David Bjorlin: "This text came after listening to an interview with Martin Sheen on the NPR show *On Being*. In it, he talked about the joy and life he experienced when he engaged in public protests. I began thinking about ways we could use joy as a tool of resistance and this was the result."

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again: he ascended into heaven. he is seated at the right hand of the Father. and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ- the light of the world- be with you always. And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

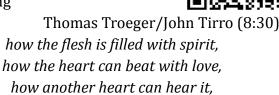
MEAL

OFFERING SONG

Startled by a Holy Humming

Startled by a holy humming drumming in her heart and ear,
Mary heard an angel coming,
Gabriel was drawing near.
From the loud though soundless beating of the flashing, unseen wings pulsed the words of sacred greeting: she would bear the king of kings.

Troubled by the angel's blessing Mary asked how it could be. In a way she was confessing all that doubt can never see:



Tending to the voice of heaven Mary's doubts began to fade while her faith like rising leaven grew until she gladly prayed:
"May it be as God has spoken, may it be as I have heard, may God's will be never broken, may I live by God's own word."

how this comes from God above.

Startled, troubled, then believing Mary's vision opened wide.

She by faith began perceiving life and truth from heaven's side.

Lord, may we at last like Mary Catch the slant of heaven's light Piercing through the doubts that bury hope and grace from human sight."

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Arr. Timothy Shaw (11)
He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim, And heav'n's eternal arches ring With your beloved name.

He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

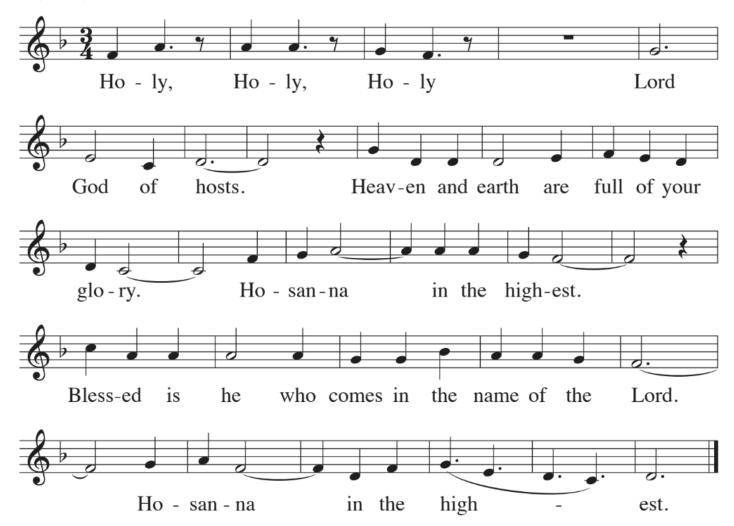
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree.

You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.

Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High
One God, now and forever, Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

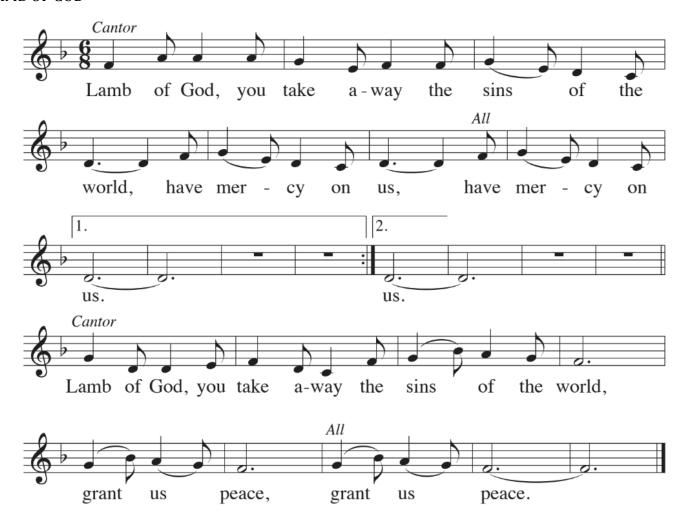
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD





Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

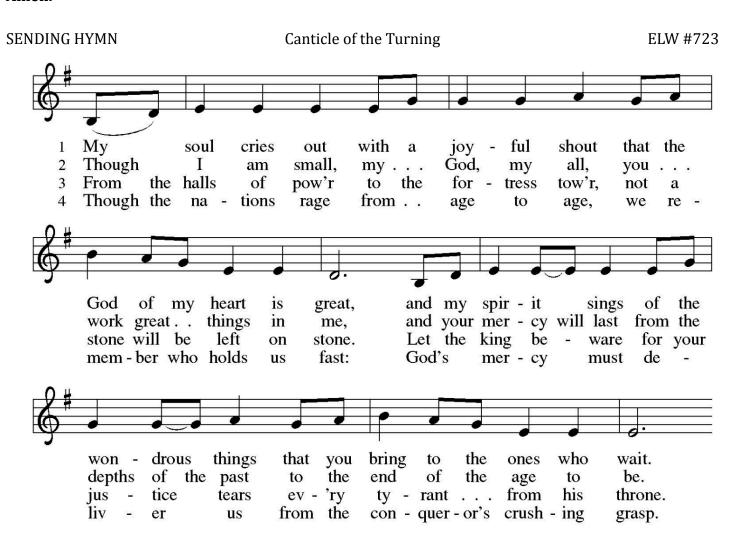
BLESSING

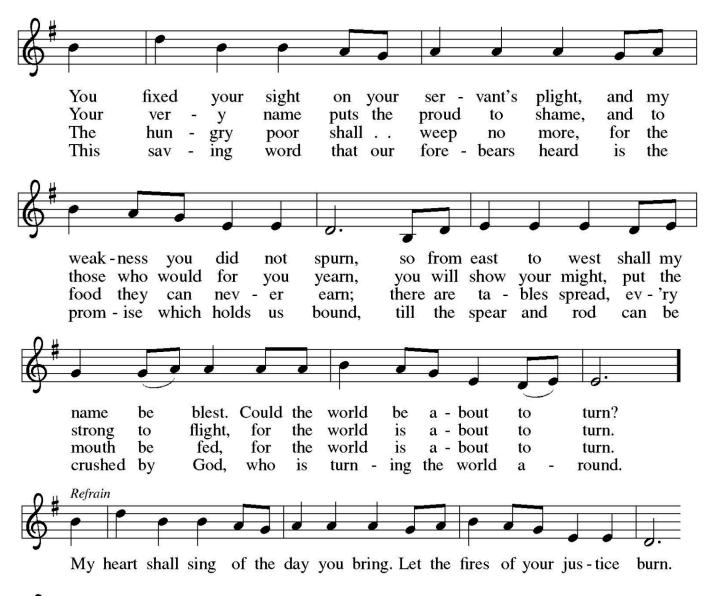
May God who comes among us,

grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,

and good news to share today and always.

Amen.







Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

VI. Toccata from Partita on "HYFRYDOL"

by David Lasky

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

The Altar Flowers for today's worship service have been given by Devin Gilgor and Angela Oas in memory of Gabriel Strathern (Devin's son) 12/27/1994- 12/14/2022.

Permission to reprint/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-712812. All rights reserved. Permission to stream liturgy and hymnody under Augsburg Fortress copyright or administration is granted by Sundaysandseasons.com subscription. CCLI License # 2001465. Permission to stream songs under the SongSelect® is granted by CCLI Streaming License # 20670071. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Come, Emmanuel Mass setting: Published with the approval of the Committee on Divine Worship,

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010

International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Setting Copyright © 2022 GIA Publications, Inc. • All rights reserved • Printed in the USA

7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 • giamusic.com • 800-442-1358

Reproduction of this publication without permission of the publisher is a violation of the U.S. Code of Law

for which the responsible individual or institution is subject to criminal prosecution. No one is exempt.

DECEMBER 14th:

The Altar Guild and Communion Assistants are Cheryl and Bruce Allen (8:30) and Jennifer and Craig Carbrey (11).

The usher is Susan Bales (11).

The Assisting Ministers are Chuck Matrazzo (8:30) and Arty Bolick (11).

The lectors are Sally Bond (8:30) and Susan Bales (11).

DECEMBER 21st, Lessons and Carols:

The Altar Guild and Communion Assistants are Jan and Kirby Gottschalk (8:30) and Amanda Stoen and Char Clendaniel (11).

The ushers are Char and Rick Clendaniel (11).

The Assisting Ministers are Sally Bond (8:30) and Arty Bolick (11).

The lectors are Mandi Stiles, Kirby and Jan Gottschalk, and kids (8:30) and Bill and Laurie Johnson, Inger Brodey, Emma Duke, and kids (11).

This Week's Anniversaries

This Week's Birthdays

December 15 Clara Brodey

Margie Dubnansky

Jordan Ziehr

December 17 Holly Shipley

Emilia Slinker

December 18 Linda Henning

Makenna Hill

Micah Olson

December 19 Roberta Barrett

Parish Pastor	Rev. William N. Rose III	(803) 237-6356
	prwill@holytrinitychapelhill.org	
Campus Pastor	Rev. Katie Elkin Ziehr	(704) 773-6557
	prkatie@holytrinitychapelhill.org	
Minister of Discipleship	Deacon Holly Shipley	(859) 433-5102
	hshipley@holytrinitychapelhill.org	
Director of Worship and Music	Megan Mash	(816) 223-1953
	mmash@holytrinitychapelhill.org	
Operations Coordinator	Grace French	(919) 942-2678
	htlc@holytrinitychapelhill.org	
Financial Records Assistant	Toni Lehman	(919) 942-2678
Pastor Emeritus in Chaplaincy	Rev. Claude Deal	
Ministry Center & Mailing Address	300 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514	
Worship Center	227 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514	
	Office: (919) 942-2678	
Office Hours	Monday – Thursday, 9:00am – 3:00pm	
	Friday 9:00am- 1:00pm	
	V	

In case of emergency, please call either Pastor directly.

www.holytrinitychapelhill.org

Instagram: @unc_lcm @htlc_youth @holytrinitychapelhill

Facebook: Holy Trinity Lutheran – Chapel Hill

YouTube: Holy Trinity Chapel Hill

Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry!

We are so glad you chose to worship with us, and we hope you experience the love and grace of God in our midst. Please fill out the "Worship Record Sheet" to record your attendance and explore ways to engage with our community of faith by using the QR code or paper sheet. Please sign up for our weekly Email Newsletter by visiting our website at www.holytrinitychapelhill.org, and subscribe to our YouTube channel at "Holy Trinity Chapel Hill". Let us know if you have any prayer requests and how we can support you in your faith journey, either by talking to a Pastor or a Stephen Minister.



Reconciling In Christ

Jesus reached across all boundaries to make God's love known, and in our baptismal covenant we are called to "serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth (ELW pg. 236)." As a Reconciling In Christ church, we at Holy Trinity welcome people of every age and ability, race, culture, religion, class, marital status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Children and Worship

We welcome children in worship and invite them to participate throughout the service. Children are invited to check out our Exploration Station in the Narthex and fill up a Busy Bag for activities during worship. If your child needs some time away from the service, there is a "Cry Room" (glass room near the Sanctuary, towards the Rosemary Street entrance) that's staffed during the academic year. The service is able to be heard through speakers in the Cry Room. There is also a Nursery room in the back hallway (behind the organ) where children can play with parental supervision.

Holy Communion

At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Believing in the real presence of Christ, HTLC practices Eucharistic hospitality: The Risen Christ welcomes all, therefore all are welcome to commune here. Receive the bread first, then the individual glasses containing (red) wine or (white) apple juice. Allergen-free communion wafers are available at the station in front of the altar. Those desiring not to commune may fold their hands to receive a blessing. Please let an usher or pastor know if you need communion brought to you at your seat.

Offering

In response to God's unconditional love, we offer "what God has first given us; ourselves, our time and our possessions... in feeding the world with God's love (ELW pg. 107)."

There are many ways to give at Holy Trinity: online through our **website**, **mailing in** your offering, placing your offering in our **offering plates** in our Worship Center, automatic **bank withdraws**, through the **QR code** in this worship bulletin, **text to give** at (833) 309-0136, or by **Venmo, our handle is @htlclcm** (Charity - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church). All contributions via text or Venmo will go to the HTLC general budget fund. Thank You!

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity

LCM is a community where ALL are welcome. We seek to accompany students as they encounter increased complexities in life, faith, relationships, and academics here at UNC. If you are (or you know) a student who is interested in getting connected with Campus Ministry, please get in touch with Pastor Katie by emailing her directly, or by using the QR code above to fill out the Worship Record Sheet. Mark "student" and/or "grad student," leave an email/phone number, and Pastor Katie will reach out!