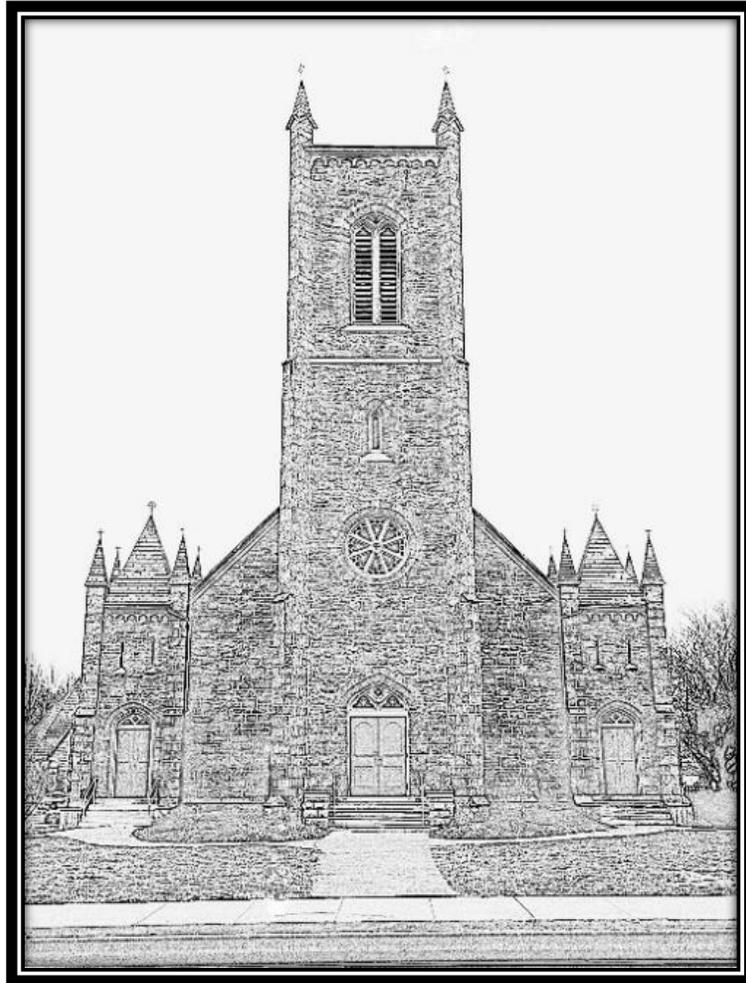


# Trinity Church

First Sunday of Christmas  
December 27, 2020  
9:30 a.m.



## Trinity Church Welcomes You

85 West Street, Rutland, VT 05701

(802) 775-4368

[office@trinitychurchrutland.org](mailto:office@trinitychurchrutland.org)

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

**RECTOR: the Rev. Liam Muller**

Rectory: 775-3953; Cell: 605-999-7138;

Email: [rector@trinitychurchrutland.org](mailto:rector@trinitychurchrutland.org)

Rector's Office Hours: Tues. – Fri., 9-12, 1-5 (or by request)

# Welcome to our Trinity Church Family!

*We are a vibrant Episcopal family united in following Christ.*

## **Our Rector:**

The Rev. Liam Muller

## **Our Staff:**

Wendy Grace, parish coordinator  
Linda Fay, treasurer  
John Riddle, music director/organist  
Jeff Zoesch, sexton

## **Our Vestry:**

Fern Fryer, Senior Warden  
Jay Slenker, Junior Warden  
Brandy Blosser  
Marc Brierre  
Kathy Hall  
Rich Jones  
Krey Kellington  
David Thurmer  
Holly Webb

## Announcements

**Christmas Tree Pickup**—The Rutland Boy Scout Troop 105/120 will be picking up discarded Christmas Trees again this year on Saturdays January 2 and 9. To schedule your pickup, please call or email: 802-438-8721 or [RutlandBSTreeCollection@gmail.com](mailto:RutlandBSTreeCollection@gmail.com). (Donations accepted at pickup.)

**Vestry Members Needed**— We have 2 seats for 3-year terms on our Vestry to be elected at our Annual Parish Meeting in January. Interested people can either contact the office or our Sr. Warden, Fern Fryer: [ferndana@comcast.net](mailto:ferndana@comcast.net) or 773-4788. Please prayerfully consider serving on our Vestry.

**2021 Calendars and Envelope Box Sets Available**—Once again, our kind friends at Tossing Funeral Home have sponsored our liturgical calendars for 2021 and they are available in the church office. Also, for those who prefer to use offering envelopes, we have your box set available as well. Please email the office to make arrangements to receive your calendars and/or envelopes.

**Continuing the Book Discussion Group**—We will our discussion of *The Art of Possibility* by Benjamin and Rosamund Stone Zander on Sunday, January 10 at 6:00pm via Zoom. Newcomers are welcome and we'll spend the first part of the session finishing up a review and then continuing with new chapters, pages 123 through 179. The book can be purchased on Amazon.com. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84824173508?pwd=V25YcW1uODkyTVFWYmsvTGUvaGJTUT09>  
Meeting ID: 848 2417 3508  
Passcode: Zander

**2020 Pledge Status**—The Finance committee notes that we are below where we should be in our pledge income to date. Especially considering our lack of fundraising income and space use fees income this year, it is especially needful that our pledgers bear the onus by maintaining their contributions. If you would like to know where you stand with your pledge, please email the church office. (You may call Wendy at 802-345-7455, but understand cell service is not reliable in Middletown Springs!)

**Sunday Worship on Zoom Platform**--Join Sunday worship and fellowship on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84027040467?pwd=eEdJSE9jM1p3MzQrQU5xNUxqMk9tQT09>  
(Meeting ID: 840 2704 0467; Password: God3in1; Dial-In: 1-646-558-8656). Our service will begin at 9:30am and after the worship service, folks are encouraged to stay in the meeting for fellowship time. *For optimal music audio, please remain muted for the prelude and postlude!*

**Trinity Church Closed**—The Vestry has begun the work to begin the process of re-opening. This will be a long process, as you are probably aware, and will entail a lot of dedication on all of our parts. Please know that we will not and are not going to be acting in haste. Rather, the primary concern of all of us is the health, safety and well-being of our entire parish family. In the meantime, if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Liam at 605-999-7138 or email [revliam25@gmail.com](mailto:revliam25@gmail.com). If you have an administrative need, you may call Wendy at 802-345-7455 or email [office@trinitychurchrutland.org](mailto:office@trinitychurchrutland.org).

**Worship with Green Mountain Online Abbey**—The Green Mountain Online Abbey provides a daily offering of online prayer at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. as well Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. View videos of Bishop Shannon's sermons as well as special diocesan services on YouTube. Join by using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/531110497?pwd=dU9uYnUvUWxDK0lGc2FaN2pTMHVEZz09> or by dialing in from any phone using the following information: dial (646) 876-9923, code 531110497# If you are asked for a password, it is RockPoint. Bulletins can be accessed on the Diocesan website.

# 9:30 a.m. A Celebration of Christmas

## Prelude

## Opening Sentences and Collect for Purity

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Officiant 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.*

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Officiant and People: Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## The Collects (Officiant)

Collect for the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## Lessons of the Day

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

*Reader and People: Thanks be to God.*

Psalm

*Psalm 147:13-21*

Reader: Please join me in reciting from Psalm 147.

*13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;*

*14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.*

*15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.*

*16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.*

*17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.*

*18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?*

*19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.*

*20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.*

*21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!*

Second Reading

*Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of Lord.

*Reader and People: Thanks be to God.*

Canticle

Reader: Please join me in reciting canticle 21.

*You are God: we praise you;*

*You are the Lord; we acclaim you;*

*You are the eternal Father:*

*All creation worships you.*

*To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,*

*Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:*

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

*The glorious company of apostles praise you.*

*The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.*

*The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.*

*Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;*

*Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.*

*You, Christ, are the king of glory,*

*the eternal Son of the Father.*

*When you became man to set us free*

*you did not shun the Virgin's womb.*

*You overcame the sting of death*

*and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.*

*You are seated at God's right hand in glory.*

*We believe that you will come and be our judge.*

*Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.*

Gospel

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

the Rev. Liam Muller

Nicene Creed (Congregation)

Officiant: Please join me in saying the Nicene Creed.

*Officiant and people: 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 Confession and Absolution

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.*

Officiant: 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.

### Suffrages B (*Officiant and Congregation*)

Officiant: Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

*People: Govern and uphold them, now and always.*

Officiant: Day by day we bless you;

*People: We praise your name for ever.*

Officiant: Lord, keep us from all sin today;

*People: Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.*

Officiant: Lord, show us your love and mercy;

*People: For we put our trust in you.*

Officiant: In you, Lord, is our hope;

*People: And we shall never hope in vain.*

### Intercession Prayers

The intercessions today are Form 2 from the Book of Common Prayer.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world. For **Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Shannon, our Bishop; and Liam, our priest.** We pray for **Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement; Ministry of Green Mountain Online Abbey;** for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. We pray especially for those serving on active duty in the armed forces and in the Peace Corps. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. We pray for all victims of violence; for those persecuted for race or gender; for all suffering financial hardship. We remember those commended to us, especially **Karen, Lisa, Mary Ann, Jimmy, Dick, Lydia, Mark, Sheree, David, Rodney, Timmy, Brian, Doug**. We pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the departed that your will for them may be fulfilled. **We remember especially Peg Cook who died last week.**

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for thanksgiving of the gifts we receive from God; **especially celebrate the mysteries and awesome beauty of light.**

*Silence.*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. We pray for parishioners celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, especially: **Susan Champine, Jamie Peterson, Betsy Morgan, Susan Bishop, Tin Skoric, Erin Coote, Oakley Stenroos, Sue Trepanier, Diane Novak**. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence.*

#### The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Officiant: Let us pray.

*Officiant and people: 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.*

#### The General Thanksgiving (*Officiant and Congregation*)

Officiant: Please join in the General Thanksgiving.

*Officiant and People: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

#### The Prayer of St. Chrysostom (*Officiant*)

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Blessing

Officiant: Let Us Bless the Lord,

*People: Thanks Be to God!*

Dismissal

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

May the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Postlude