

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT



Opportunities for Prayer, Discussion & Bible Study

A service of Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer is celebrated each Sunday at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. There will also be a service of Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve at 4 o'clock. Online, there is Morning Prayer on Wednesdays and Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons. Richard Rohr Meditation discussions are on Saturday mornings. Contact the office for a Zoom invitation.

Trinity Carol Sing

We are requesting carolers for Sunday afternoon, December 18 at 1:30 for a Carol Sing to spread joy to some of our housebound parishioners. We will gather in the Parish Hall and proceed to some homes in Old Wethersfield and Church Street Extension. Then we'll return to the Parish Hall for cocoa, cookies and fellowship. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Nan, Garth or Bishop Gordon.

Welcome to Your/Our Office

By Maryann Salvo Drennen

This lovely table was found on Facebook Market Place. A generous donor provided the funds to purchase it. Visitors are welcome to pop in for a cup of coffee Tuesday-Thursday from 9-2. Please contact me ahead of time to ensure that my schedule will allow me to provide you with my full attention during our visit. I can be reached at 860-529-6825 or operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org. Hope to see you soon!



Purse Ministry Update

By Sue Krupenevich-Rafala

Our parish purse ministry allows us to fill purses/bags with toiletries and other items that we distribute to people who are experiencing homelessness or transitioning from a shelter to living on their own.

Please consider supporting this ministry in these ways:

- Monetary donations: Make your check payable to Trinity Parish with "Purse Ministry" on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to the office or placed in the plate on Sunday. Or, put cash in an envelope with "Purse Ministry" written on the outside and put it in the plate on Sunday or drop it off during office hours.
- In-Kind donations: Toiletries and other small items (e.g. travel-size shampoos, soaps, and conditioners; notepads, etc.) are welcome. They should be left in the Purse Ministry Room in the basement on the right at the bottom of the stairs near the office entrance.

Thank you for making this program possible!



*Difficult Journey - Transition to Bethlehem,
Fritz von Uhde, 1890*

Sunday Services

DECEMBER 4

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

[Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#)

[Romans 15:4-13](#)

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

DECEMBER 11

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#)

[Psalm 146:5-10](#)

[James 5:7-10](#)

[Matthew 11:2-11](#)

DECEMBER 18

[Isaiah 7:10-16](#)

[Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#)

[Romans 1:1-7](#)

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS EVE

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

[Psalm 96](#)

[Titus 2:11-14](#)

[Luke 2:1-14, \(15-20\)](#)

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

[Isaiah 52:7-10](#)

[Psalm 98](#)

[Hebrews 1:1-4, \(5-12\)](#)

[John 1:1-14](#)

Rota for December

WORSHIP LEADERS

December 4 - Morning Prayer - Garth, leader; Heidi, homilist

December 11 - Holy Eucharist

The Rt. Rev. Gordon Scruton, celebrant; Rose, homilist

December 18 - Holy Eucharist, Lessons & Carols

The Rev. Shaw Mudge, celebrant and preacher

December 24 - Holy Eucharist, Christmas Eve (4 o'clock)

The Rt. Rev. Gordon Scruton, celebrant and preacher

December 25 - Holy Eucharist, Christmas Day

The Rev. Shaw Mudge, celebrant and preacher

READERS

December 4 - Sheila, Hubertus, Don

December 11 - Cheryl, Tim, Sarah

December 18 - Kathy, Judy, Ginger

December 24 - Garth, Melanie, Kathy

December 25 - Rose, Olivia, Corrine

GREETERS

December 4 - Clark and Joyce

December 11 - Connie, Cheryl

December 18 - Warren, Melanie, Garth

December 24 - Rebecca, Cheryl

December 25 - Clark and Joyce

Book Club Gathering

The Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at the home of Carol Jones from 5:45-7:45 for pizza and discussion. This month's selection is *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn. Based on a true story, it is a haunting novel of heroism born of desperation, of a mother who became a soldier, of a woman who found her place in the world. The story is set in WWII Russia although the actual area involved is the Ukraine providing incredible insight into the Russian/Ukrainian mindset. Contact Joan Joseph at golfst4@aol.com for details.

A Time for Change

Dear folks of Trinity Parish,

We read in Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verse 1 "There is a time to every purpose under heaven..."

This edition of The Belfry will be the last one with Leslie as editor. She is aware that her season for editing and creating The Belfry has come to an end. Leslie has many, many gifts which she has shared with us and the broader community. The sharing of her knowledge, skills, and creativity have enabled us to better love God, love our neighbors and reach out to a needy world.

We look forward to what God has in store for Leslie in this new season in using God's gifts in her for the love of God and neighbor. And we look forward to God's guidance for us as we endeavor to communicate by written word God's love to our neighbors.

Leslie, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Rebecca Scruton, warden

Our King and Savior now draws near, Come let us adore him.



As we begin this Season of Advent, the beginning of the Church Year, we are provided the opportunity to enter into the season of waiting for the daily and final coming of our Savior...the Christ.

Following are a few ways we can form our expectant waiting.

- 1) Our Book of Common Prayer provides readings for each week day in the Daily Lectionary. This year is Daily Office Year One found on page 936. The readings all point to Christ's advent or coming.
- 2) Advent devotional booklets may be found in the back of the sanctuary.
- 3) This excerpt from Bishop Scruton's 1Advent sermon.*

"...One way we can learn to be more awake to Christ's daily coming into our lives is to pay special attention to the way we begin and end each day. If we begin and end each day looking at or listening to the media's bad news of the day, we can feel overwhelmed by the problems of life. If we begin and end the day in conversation with Jesus, we may be filled with hope and gratitude as we wake up to recognize the many ways in which God is at work in our lives and in the world each day.

"This week I invite you to take just 3 to 5 minutes every morning to find a quiet time and place to be alone with God. Please close your eyes and let's practice this morning prayer together right now.

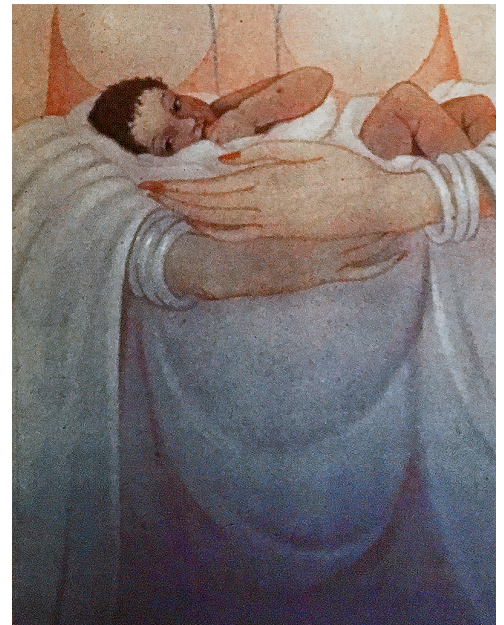
"Begin by taking a deep breath... As you breathe out, be aware that Jesus is right there with you, looking at you with a gentle, loving smile, eager to listen to you. Thank Jesus for being with you right now... Imagine Jesus calling you by name and saying, 'I love you. What do you want me to do for you today?'

"I encourage you to make two requests of Jesus now and every morning. First, ask Jesus to help you stay awake to recognize the ways in which God will be coming into your life today. 'Jesus, help me see moments of joy and beauty; see the acts of kindness, smiles, the willingness of others to support me; hear the whispers of your Spirit guiding me even in difficult and frustrating moments; help me recognize the little surprises and the moments of peace. Jesus, help me to recognize your loving presence and gifts in my life throughout today.'

"Second, ask Jesus to help you recognize the opportunities God will give you today to pass on Christ's love and blessings to others, by your attitudes, thoughts, prayers, words, smiles, actions. 'Jesus, help me recognize who needs my support and encouragement today; and help me be willing to make little sacrifices of my own convenience so I can share your love and care with others throughout today.'

"At home, you can end your morning prayers by praying the Lord's Prayer.

(continued on next page)



*And the Word Became Flesh,
Frank Wesley, 1950*

Parish Leadership

VESTRY

Warren Blessing, Co-Warden
Susanna Brown
Sarah Butters
Peter Dewberry
Don Ghostlaw
Robert Heath, Treasurer
Melanie Hepburn, Clerk
Carol Jones
Charles Melchreit
Garth Myers, Co-Warden
Rebecca Scruton, Co-Warden

STAFF

Maryann Drennen, Administrator
Tuesday-Thursday, 9-2
860-529-6825
Dorothy LaBelle, Music Director

Business Report

Pledge Status (through October)

Total Pledge	\$ 132,377
Received	\$ 116,791

Income/Expenses (through October)

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 136,009	\$ 154,152
Expenses	\$ 137,537	\$ 160,143

"Then, near the end of today and every day this week, find a special place to be quiet for three to five minutes. Again, take a deep breath...and give thanks that Christ is right there with you, looking at you with a gentle loving smile, eager to listen to you.

"First, ask Jesus to help you recognize the ways he was at work in your life during the day by thinking back to your morning prayer time and re-playing the video of your day with Jesus. Notice little ways in which Jesus was always right there with you, blessing and guiding you. Notice all that was good and beautiful about the day. This is not a time to be critical of yourself and your day. Just focus on the surprises, the little and big moments and blessings for which you are most thankful during the past day.

"Second, re-play the video of your day again, this time asking Jesus to help you see what little opportunities he gave you to love and care for others by your thoughts, attitudes, smiles, words, and deeds. Give thanks for those opportunities you had to pass on the love of Jesus to others around you during the past day.

"You can end this prayer of gratitude by asking God to give you a good night's sleep and prepare you to continue to grow in awareness of Christ's love for you tomorrow and to grow in awareness of the ways you can pass on God's love to others tomorrow. Then close with the Lord's Prayer.

"Right now, in the silence, take a few moments to ask Jesus to help you practice these two morning and evening prayers this coming week...so you can learn to be more awake to recognize and share Christ's constant loving coming into your life this Advent..."

Day by day, dear Lord, three things we pray; to see You more clearly, love You more dearly, follow You more nearly, day by day, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The complete sermon (written and audio) can be found on the website at <https://trinityepiscopalweth.org/services-&-sermons>*

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Please consider a donation to our flower fund. Trinity Altar Guild will accept any amount you choose to give. We suggest a donation of \$50. Leaflet print deadline is December 15.

Please indicate (M) Memorial (T) Thanksgiving

Names _____

Given by _____



Please mail your check and form to Trinity Parish at 300 Main Street, deliver to the Parish Office, or place it in the Offertory Plate on Sunday. On the check memo line, please indicate "Flower Fund."



The Belfry is a monthly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT. Email articles and photographs to the Parish Office at operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org