

# Trinity Episcopal Church

*Granford, in the Diocese of New Jersey*



*“The Dream of Saint Joseph” — Domingo Martinez*

## *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Rite I Holy Eucharist

December 21, 2025 at 8 AM

*The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider*

*Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music*

*Casey Woodruff, Senior Warden & Thomas Kaercher, Junior Warden*

## Welcome

Andrew Kruger

*The bell is rung and the People stand.*

## Acclamation

BCP 323

*Presider* Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;  
*People* **God's mercy endureth for ever.**

## Collect for Purity

BCP 323

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People* **Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love thee,  
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Lighting the Advent Candle

*The Lector says*

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, when we marvel at Mary's gracious acceptance of her divine pregnancy. We light this candle to remind us that, with Mary, we carry the light of Christ in us.

*The fourth Advent Candle is lit.*

## Kyrie

BCP 324

*Presider* Kyrie eleison.  
*People* **Christe eleison.**  
*Presider* Kyrie eleison.

## Collect of the Day

BCP 160

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

*Reader* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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.**

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

*Qui regis Israel*

BCP 702

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
2. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3. Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
4. O LORD God of hosts, \*  
**how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?**
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
6. You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
7. Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
16. Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
**the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
17. And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
**give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
18. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## **Second Reading**

Romans 1:1-7

*Reader* A reading from the letter of Paul to the Church in Rome.

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 the 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.**

*The People stand.*

## **Gospel**

Matthew 1:18-25

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

*People*          **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah 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 borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*          **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## **Homily**

Andrew Kruger

## **Nicene Creed**

BCP 326

*The People stand.*

**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.**

## **Prayers of the People**

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sean, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Sally our Bishop, and Andrew our Rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President, Philip, our governor, and Terrence, the mayor of this town, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [*especially...*], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

BCP 330

*The Presider says*

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins,  
and are in love and charity with your neighbors,  
and intend to lead a new life,  
following the commandments of God,  
and walking from henceforth in his holy ways:  
Draw near with faith,  
and make your humble confession to Almighty God,  
devoutly kneeling.

*The People kneel.*

**Almighty God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins  
and wickedness,  
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Comfortable Words**

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden,  
and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*



## Peace

BCP 332

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And with thy spirit.**

## Announcements

Andrew Kruger

## Offertory Sentence

Romans 13:11

The hour has come for you to wake from sleep.  
For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the People.  
Alternatively, you may give to Trinity online:  
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

## The Presentation of Gifts

1 Chronicles 29:14b

*Presider* All things come of thee, O Lord:  
*People* **And of thine own have we given thee.**

## Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to thee,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
“Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup;  
and when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them, saying,  
“Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant,  
which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins.  
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

BCP 336

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.**

## Breaking the Bread

BCP 337

*The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed, then the Presider says*

*Presider* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*People* **have mercy upon us.**

*Presider* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*People* **have mercy upon us.**

*Presider* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*People* **grant us thy peace.**

## Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## Invitation

BCP 338

*Presider* The Gifts of God:  
*People* **For the People of God.**

## Holy Communion

*The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All who hunger for God, including children, are cordially invited to share the Gifts of God offered at this table. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here.*

*All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. You may choose to receive only the host.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available by simple request to the priest.*

## Post Communion Prayer

BCP 384

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People* **O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament  
hast left unto us a memorial of thy passion:  
Grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries  
of thy Body and Blood,  
that we may ever perceive within ourselves  
the fruit of thy redemption;  
who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Blessing

BCP 339

*The Presider pronounces the blessing*

And now may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The ministers recess.*

## Dismissal

BCP 340

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

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



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## **For Friends, Visitors and Newcomers**

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey. Thank you for joining us in worship. The bulletin is designed to make you feel at home; and includes everything you need for the service (liturgy, hymns, rubrics, etc.). Please connect with us; introduce yourself to the ushers so they can make you feel more comfortable. Father Andy is in the narthex (entrance) at the end of the service; it is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level. All are invited to Fellowship Hour in Sherlock Hall, immediately after the service.

Every Thursday by 2 PM, an email blast is sent with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information on events, etc. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

## **What you need to know today...**

**Christmas Pageant** Rehearsals will be held during the 10 AM service, followed by a dress rehearsal at 11:30 AM in the Church. No Children's Choir rehearsal today due to the pageant dress rehearsal.

**Fellowship Hour** In Sherlock Hall, immediately after this service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided.

**Vestry Meeting** Today at 11:30 AM in Witherington Hall, please pray for the leadership of our parish:

*Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in Trinity's Vestry for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Outdoor Nativity Scene** Volunteers are needed to help erect the outdoor nativity scene after the 10 AM service today. Please report to John Beier in the Witherington Chapel at 11:30 AM for directions.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Account** Thank you so much to everyone who gave so generously to our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Societies over the last several years. The account will be closed out at the end of this year. The plaque with the names of all who contributed will be displayed in Witherington Hall early in the new year. If you would like to submit an outstanding 150<sup>th</sup> pledge please contact Carol Beier ([cbeier@gordonherlands.com](mailto:cbeier@gordonherlands.com)).

**Cranford HS Madrigal Choir Holiday CD** Today through Christmas Eve, the session recorded at Trinity in December 2024 will be on sale. See Anthony Rafaniello after the 8 AM or 10 AM services to purchase. Each CD is \$25; cash, check made out to "Cranford High School" or Venmo (@CranfordChoir). Proceeds support the Cranford HS Choir Program.

## **What you need to know this week...**

**Cranford High School Madrigal Choir Concert** Tuesday, December 23 at 5 PM in the church. The group will be singing some of their holiday favorites. Admission is free; their holiday CDs will be available for purchase during the performance. All are welcome.

**Parish Office is closed Wednesday, December 24 through Monday, January 5, 2026.** Parish Administrator Marion Nechuta is normally in Tuesday (12 noon-2:30 PM), Wednesday (1 PM-3:30 PM) and Thursday (12 noon-2:30 PM). Father Andy's sabbath day is Friday.

**Rector on Vacation** Sunday, December 28 through Thursday, January 1. In the event of a pastoral emergency, contact Marion Nechuta at the Parish Office.

**The Daily Offices** Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday to Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM. However, there are no Daily Offices on the evening of December 24 and throughout the day on December 25 due to Christmas Services.

**The Handbell Choir** is on Christmas break, rehearsals begin again on Wednesday, January 7.

**The Trinity Adult Choir will rehearse at 9:30 PM in Witherington Hall** ahead of the 10:30 PM Lessons and Carols Service,

**Compline** Usually on Thursdays at 8 PM online; however, not this Thursday due to the Christmas holiday.

## **What you need to know in the future...**

**St. John's Sandwich Sunday** Today; people are needed to make sandwiches after the services and deliver them to St. John's in Elizabeth. Sandwich donation items needed are listed in this week's email blast. To help, please contact Marion Nechuta ([marionnechuta@yahoo.com](mailto:marionnechuta@yahoo.com)) or Helen Shteynberg ([hshteynberg@gmail.com](mailto:hshteynberg@gmail.com)).

**Martin Luther King Jr.** Thursday, January 15 at 7 PM at St. Mark's AME Church, Cranford.

**Annual Parish Meeting** Sunday, January 25, 2026 following one service at 10 AM. Reports are due by Sunday, January 4.

## 2026 Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that according to the State Law governing the Episcopal Church, and the Constitution of the Parish, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, following the 10 AM service (there is only one service that day) in Sherlock Hall. Election of new vestry members, convention and convocation delegates, and review of 2025 Annual Report are presented. Deadline for committee reports is Sunday, January 4, 2025; refer to last year's Annual Report (available by request).

### Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent	8 AM, Rite I and 10 AM, Rite II
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Pageant	4:30 PM Rite II Eucharist with the blessing of the creche
Wednesday, December 24	Lessons & Carols	10:30 PM Traditional Anglican feast of music and scripture
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Day	9 AM One single worship service, Rite I
Sunday, December 28	First Sunday after Christmas	9 AM One single worship service, Rite II
Sunday, January 4	Epiphany (observed)	8 AM Rite I Eucharist and 10 AM Rite II Eucharist
Sunday, January 11	Baptism of our Lord	8 AM Rite I Eucharist and 10 AM Rite II Eucharist



Website: [TrinityCranford.org](http://TrinityCranford.org)  
Instagram: [@trinity\\_cranford\\_1872](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_cranford_1872)  
Facebook: Trinity Episcopal Church, Cranford  
Connect to Online Services and Meetings: [us04web.zoom.us/j/595488321](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/595488321)  
Meeting ID: 595 488 3214  
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