

Trinity Episcopal Church

Granford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



“St. John the Baptist” — Alvise Vivarini

The Third Sunday of Advent

Rite I Holy Eucharist

December 14, 2025 at 8 AM

The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider

Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music

Casey Woodruff, Senior Warden & Preacher

The Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Greens are given to the Glory of God

& in celebration of Mary Frydlewicz's 100th birthday today by Darrell & Maureen Frydlewicz

& in celebration of Arwen Morgan Kelly's 13th birthday by from Jana Morgan & Nathan Kelly

& in memory of Alfred and Caryl Kaercher who were married this day in 1946 from Thomas Kaercher & Susan Olszewski

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 Eucharistic Minister says

Today is the third Sunday of Advent when we remember John the Baptist, who called the people to repent. As we light the third candle let us remember that John prepared the way for the one who baptizes with Spirit and fire!

The third Advent Candle is lit by the Eucharistic minister.

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.

Stir up thy power, O Lord,
and with great might come among us;
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,
let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be honor and glory, world without end.

Amen.

The People sit.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then 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; the 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. A 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. 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.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146: 4-9

Lauda, anima mea

BCP 803

4. Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;
5. Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
 who keeps his promise for ever;
6. Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
 and food to those who hunger.
7. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
 the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
8. The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *
 he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9. The Lord shall reign for ever, *
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Reader A reading from the letter of St James.

Be patient, beloved, 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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.’ 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.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Casey Woodruff

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.

Cover Art

Alvise Vivarini's *St. John the Baptist* refers to several depictions of the saint by the Venetian Renaissance painter, most notably a slim panel painting (c. 1480) in the Denver Art Museum, known for its cool tones and solitary figure, and a figure within the larger Altarpiece of St. Ambrose, finished by Marco Basaiti, where John stands beside St. Ambrose in the Church of San Pietro Martire (Murano). Vivarini often depicted this saint, sometimes alongside St. Matthew, using detailed hand studies for his figures, creating evocative, characteristic works.

What you need to know today...

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Children will receive the blessing as usual during the 10 AM service, and then move to Sherlock Hall.

Christmas Cookie Fellowship Hour In Sherlock Hall, immediately after this service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided. Today; enjoy treats made by fellow parishioners.

Children's Choir Rehearsal today at 11:30 AM in the church.

Sanctuary Candle During Advent, while there are no flowers on the altar, we can still remember our loved ones and the attributions on the front cover will read as follows: "The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of _____."

Youth Representative Applications are being accepted for this appointed position on the Trinity Vestry. Open to high school students in their sophomore or junior year to represent the youth of the parish. See email blast to apply by today.

Christmas Flowers As part of the preparation for celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord, please contribute towards this year's flowers. The deadline is today. Envelopes marked for this purpose are in the narthex of the church. Alternatively, give to Trinity online and write 'Christmas Flowers' in the memo line. All remembrances must be logged online by completing the form which can be accessed via the QR code. Loved one's names will be on the Christmas bulletins and will be prayed for at Morning Prayer during the season of Christmas.



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...

The Daily Offices Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday to Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM.

Parish Office Parish Administrator Marion Nechuta is 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.

Handbells and Choir Rehearsals This Wednesday, December 17; rehearsal for Handbells is 7 to 7:50 PM and Adult Choir is 8-9 PM.

Fellowship Luncheon This Thursday, December 18 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM in Witherington Hall. TEDs students and the Cranford High School Madrigal Choir will be singing Christmas Carols and will serenade while Shepherd's Pie (beef) is served – everyone's favorite Luncheon. Call Susan Olszewski (908-757-9561) or Susan Nelson (908-397-3944) for questions or to help.

Compline Thursdays at 8 PM online. A contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace.

What you need to know in the future...

St. John's Sandwich Sunday December 20; 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. Food bags will be made on Saturday, December 19 in Sherlock Hall from 10 to 11 AM. Only sandwich bags are being accepted at this time, no additional food items or clothing. To help, please contact Marion Nechuta (marionnechuta@yahoo.com) or Helen Shteynberg (hshteynberg@gmail.com).

Vestry Meeting Sunday, December 21 at 11:30 AM; note date change.

Martin Luther King Jr. Thursday, January 15 at 7 PM at St. Mark's AME Church, Cranford. Highschoolers are invited to submit an essay on MLK; the winner will be read during this annual Cranford MLK service. Details may be viewed in the weekly email blast.

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

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday of Advent	8 AM, Rite I and 10 AM, Rite II
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

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

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