

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

December 10th, 2017

The Second Sunday of Advent

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Luke 3:4,6*

10:25: Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional Hymn #103: On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

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

All: And also with you.

Cantor All
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Cantor All
Chris - te e - lei - son, Chris - te e lei - son.

Cantor All
Ky - ri - e e lei - son, Ky - ri - e e lei - son.

Collect of the Day:

Let us pray. (*Silence to gather prayers.*)

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Focus/Candle Lighting: Come, Lord Jesus, Come, words by Charles Wesley, music by Joel Raney

Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus,
born - to set thy peo - ple free; from our
sins and fears re - lease us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Responsive Litany

Advent is marked by a spirit of yearning for peace.

All: May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace among nations.

All: May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace among races.

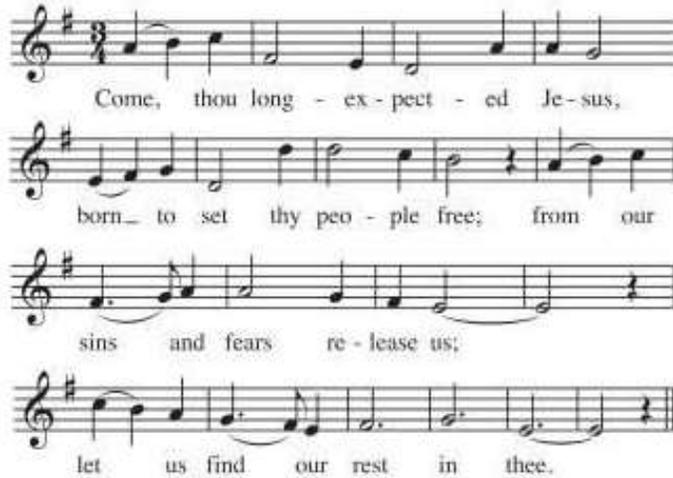
All: May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace in our hearts and in our lives.

All: May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

Candle Lighting

Today we light two candles – the candle of hope and the candle of peace. The light of this second candle reminds us that God’s purpose in sending his Son into the world was to bring peace. We look at the division, the fighting, and the turmoil around us, and we see a world in dire need. We remind ourselves that peace begins with forgiveness, and that forgiveness begins in our hearts.



Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for your promise of peace, and we know that because of Christ, peace is possible. We pray today for the nations of the world, that we could find a way to live together in peace. We pray for our brothers and sisters everywhere, that we could become more forgiving, more understanding, and more loving to one another. Flood our hearts with the light of peace today so that we might take that light and spread your love to the whole world. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A reading from Isaiah (40:1-11) (*Lydia Neufeld*)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’ A voice says, ‘Cry out!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85 (1-2, 8-13)



Show us your mer - cy, O Lord.

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob. You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins. **R**

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him. Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. **R**

A reading from 2 Peter (3:8-15) (Arnold Das)

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn #100: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Mark (1:1-8)**



Glo - ry to you, Lord___ Je - sus___Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of Christ



Praise to you, Lord___ Je - sus___Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Sermon: The Ven. Dr. Christopher A. Pappas

The Nicene Creed:

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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.

Commissioning of Resident Groups/Artists and Healing Prayer Team

Celebrant: Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which they are called.

Are these persons you are to present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honour of God, and the well-being of his Church?

All: **I believe they are.**

You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidates: I will.

Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honour of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidates: I will.

The Prayers of the People (*Ed Brownfield*)

Response to each intercession:

Lord in your mercy...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Confession and Absolution

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

(Silence to recount our sins.)

Most merciful God,

All: **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 neighbours 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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon you and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Offertory Hymn #89: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Prayer over the Gifts: God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

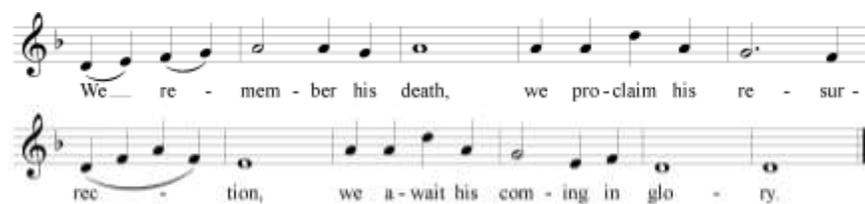
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.



Ho-ly, ho-ly ho-ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full, full of your glo-ry. Ho
san-na ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command.



We re-mem-ber his death, we pro-claim his re-sur-
ec-tion, we a-wait his com-ing in glo-ry.

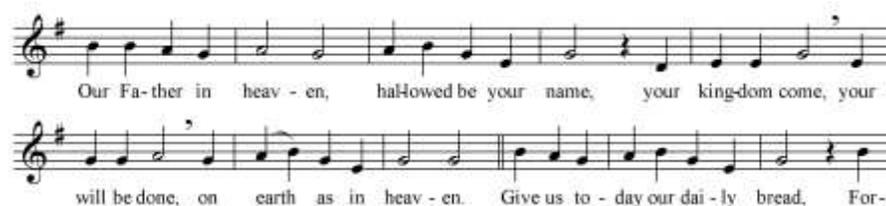
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.



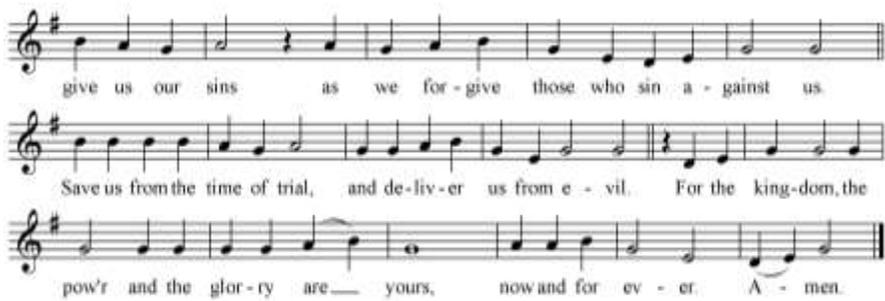
A-men, a-men.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, haHowed be your name, your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread, For-



give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the
 pow'r and the glor-ry are— yours, now and for ev-er. A-men.

The Breaking of Bread

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All: **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THERE'S A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR YOU! All persons are invited to gather around the altar at the time of Communion to receive either the Sacrament of the Baptized or a Blessing (indicate by crossing your arms over your chest). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. When receiving the wine, please grasp the cup to assist the administrant.

Fraction Anthem



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
 Repeat three times
 Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Communion Hymn #96: Creator of the Stars of Night

Post Communion Song: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree, Howard Helvey

1. The tree of life my soul hath seen,
 Laden with fruit and always green:
 The trees of nature fruitless be
 Compared with Christ the apple tree.

2. His beauty doth all things excel:
 By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
 The glory which I now can see
 In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

3. For happiness I long have sought,
 And pleasure dearly I have bought:
 I missed of all; but now I see
 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

4. I'm weary with my former toil,
 Here I will sit and rest awhile:
 Under the shadow I will be,
 Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

5. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
 It keeps my dying faith alive;
 Which makes my soul in haste to be
 With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Prayer after Communion: Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Doxology:

Glory to God,

All: **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen**

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always.

Recessional Hymn #101: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Postlude: Noel VI, *Louis Claude Daquin*

Welcome to Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Please join us for coffee and fellowship following the service. We thank Sheila Vaughan and John de Haan for hosting coffee today. Nursery: Care for children from birth to age three is available during the 10:30am service. The nursery is downstairs. Please ask a greeter if you need help finding it. The Warden on duty today is Marguerite Trussler.

Please remember these names in your prayers this week: Roger; Ed; Erin; Fr. Allan; Leon; Linda; Fran; David; Ron; Sheldon; Marlo; Ruth; Mildred; Barbara; Judah; Gwyneth; Janet; Gertrude **Names will be kept on the prayer list for three weeks. Please let the church office know if you wish a name to remain on the list longer. Thank you!**

Upcoming Services and Other Events at a Glance:

December 10th – Artists & Healing Prayer Team Commissioning

December 11th – Holden Evening Prayer, 7pm

December 16th – Death Café, 12pm

December 17th – Recommitment of Vows

December 17th – Kids Church Christmas Pageant

December 18th – Holden Evening Prayer, 7pm

December 24th – Christmas Eve Services, 4:30, 7, 11pm

December 25th – Christmas Day Service, 10am

December 27th & 28th – Amahl and the Night Visitors, 6:30pm

Today's Scriptures:

Advent 2, Year B

Isaiah 40:1-11. Chapters 40 through 55 of Isaiah are sometimes called "Second Isaiah." Writing close to the end of the exile, the prophet proclaims the reconciliation of Israel with God, and the restoration of the people to their land. We hear the opening passage, announcing the good news God's people have been waiting long to hear: deliverance is at hand!

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13. This psalm may come from the same period as Second Isaiah. In beautiful poetic language, the psalmist prays for the restoration of God's favor upon both people and land.

2 Peter 3:8-15. This letter was probably written by an unknown Christian elder early in the second century, seeking to encourage Christians of a later generation who were anxious that Christ had not yet returned as promised and as the church had long been teaching.

Mark 1:1-8. The Gospel of Mark begins with John the Baptist, not with Jesus. Using words from the prophets Isaiah and Malachi, John proclaimed his role as preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah.

- Written by The Rev. Robin Walker

Haitian Arts and Crafts Sale

Support Outreach to Haiti: Today and next Sunday, December 17th, Fr. Chris will be selling Haitian arts and crafts during coffee hour in the Lower Hall following the 10:30AM service. Come purchase something beautiful for yourself, your home, or do your Christmas shopping while supporting a great cause. 100% of proceeds go to support Outreach to Haiti. Purchases can be made via cash, credit card, or by cheque made out to Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Donations to Outreach to Haiti will also be accepted.

Holden Evening Prayer: Join us on Monday evenings during the season of Advent for Holden Evening Prayer.

December 11 and 18 at 7:00PM. Holden Evening Prayer is a musical setting of the liturgy written by Marty Haugen.

This lovely setting of vespers follows the traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language.

Christmas Hampers for King Edward School Families Once again this year we are working together to provide Christmas hampers for families in need at King Edward School and Academy at King Edward. These will contain food and other items to bring joy to these families at Christmastime. Here's how you can help:

Donate Items: Suggested items for donations: boxes of chocolates, practical toiletry items (toothbrushes, combs, toothpaste, etc.), fun toiletry items (bubble bath, lotion, hair accessories, etc.), cosmetics (i.e. nail polish, etc.), socks, pj's, mittens, hats, scarves, small games, books, etc. All donations of items may be placed in the marked box at the front of the Sanctuary.

Donate Money: Any monetary donations will be used to purchase turkeys and other food items for the hampers. If placing money in the offering plate, please designate it "Christmas Hampers".

Donate Time: If you would like to be involved in packing the hampers or getting supplies, please contact Janette in the office: church.office@holytrinity.ab.ca or 780-433-5530 ext. 104.

The deadline for all donations is Dec. 18. Thank you in advance!

Death Café: Saturday, December 16th, 12pm-2pm, Upper Hall: Death is a taboo subject in our society. We live in a culture where many people only start to think about what happens when we die - to our bodies, our loved ones, our souls - when they are faced with the death of someone close to them. I am passionate about creating safe spaces to talk about Death because it is the one sure thing that every one of us will have to deal with at some point in our lives. Questions? Please see Rev. Heather.

Recommitment of Wedding Vows: As part of the service on **Sunday, December 17th**, there will be a Recommitment of Wedding Vows. For any couples wishing to participate, please send Janette your names and the date of your wedding anniversary: church.office@holyltrinity.ab.ca or 780-433-5530.

O Tiny House of Bethlehem

Join us during coffee hour following the 10:30AM service on **Sunday, December 17th** to see the Kids Church Christmas Pageant, "O Tiny House of Bethlehem". Join with the kids in celebrating the birth of Christ!

Christmas Memorial Flowers – May their memory be eternal

We are accepting donations towards our Christmas flower arrangements, made in memory of those who have died. These names will be printed in both the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. It is a great way to remember and celebrate the life of someone whom we loved but no longer see, and remember that they live on in Christ in the new and resurrected life. The Christmas flowers will then be available for distribution to shut-ins and the needy. If you would like to designate memorial flowers, please see the signup sheet downstairs during coffee hour, or contact Janette at the office (780-433-5530 or church.office@holyltrinity.ab.ca). **Please sign up by Sunday, December 17th at the latest.** Thank you!

Christmas Services: Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour!

December 24

- **4:30 PM** Christmas Eve Family Service with open pageant and carols. Perfect for families with young children.
- **7 PM** Christmas Eve Communion Service. Come sing along to traditional Christmas favourites.
- **11 PM** Festive Christmas Eve Eucharist with organ and choir. A candlelit service full of symbolism that accesses the mystery of the Incarnation.

December 25

- **10:00 AM** Christmas Day Eucharist Service. Festive and calm worship with organ and sung carols.

Please note that the regular 8:30AM and 10:30AM services for Advent 4 will still be taking place on December 24th, in addition to the evening Christmas Eve Services.

Church Office Hours: The church office will be closed from December 25th to December 27th, as well as January 1st.

Upcoming Trinity Players Events

Amahl and the Night Visitors: December 27 and 28 at 6:30PM - Come join the Trinity Players as they share Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" with you. In this one hour, family friendly opera, we follow the epic journey of three quirky wise men following the star to visit the mystical baby. On the way, they take refuge in the home of Amahl and his mother, and miracles ensue. Tickets: \$15/adult, \$35/family (two adults and up to 3 children), \$5/single child. Tickets from Eventbrite.com.

HTAC Open Stage Holy Trinity is a place of art and a place of community. You are invited to join us on the first Friday of every month from 7-10pm for HTAC Open Stage. Bring your talents to share with others, or come as an audience member and enjoy the show. **Upcoming Open Stage Night: January 5th.** All are welcome!

Holy Trinity Presents: Speaker Series: Please join us for an exciting and enlightening lecture-discussion series on monthly Saturday mornings at Holy Trinity. 30 minute lecture followed by 30 minutes of discussion. Refreshments provided. 11am to 12pm in the Upper Hall.

January 6 – Heather Coleman: "Russian Orthodoxy as 'Lived Religion'"

February 3 – Amy Fisher: "Galilean Archeology: A Brief Introduction"

March 3 – Marian Allen: "Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job: Wisdom Relevant Today?"

April 7 – Nathan Kowalsky: "Evil, nature, and God"

Script Salon: Sunday, January 14th, 7:30PM. Note new dates for 2018: Script Salon next month – *Second* Sunday.

SCRIPT SALON showcases some of the most talented theatre writers in the region with new plays ripe for production read by professional actors. Presented the first Sunday of every month with a different play by a different playwright featured every time, SCRIPT SALON is a bounteous buffet of sizzling comedy, drama, romance and adventure forged by the power of imagination. Free Admission (Donations Accepted) – Refreshments – Playwright Talk Back

"The Thin Line" by Blaine Newton – An aging clown, a shabby Shakespearean, and a Lothario well past his prime walk into an audition – it's not a joke; it's reality. Old actors never die, they just whine about the lack of opportunities.

Equally Anglican: All are welcome and invited to join us on the last Sunday of each month for our LGBTQ+ affirming Eucharist service at 7:00pm. **Upcoming Service Date: January 28th at 7:00PM.** Please note that there will be no Equally Anglican service on December 31st, but we hope to see you in January!