



# HOLY TRINITY

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# BRUSSELS

Advent 1  
3 December 2023

## Worship this week

### Sunday, 3 December 2023

**9:00 Holy Communion**  
Leading & Preaching:  
Annie Bolger

**10:30 All Age Worship Holy Communion**  
Leading & Preaching:  
AAW Team

[Zoom](#); [YouTube](#)

**14:00 Service of the Word FR/EN**  
Leading: Charles Kabera  
Preaching: Grace West

[YouTube](#)

**18:00 Holy Communion**  
Leading: Matthias Rottiers  
Preaching: John Wilkinson

[Zoom](#); [YouTube](#)

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Contact our Children & Youth Coordinator [Philip Milton](#) for more details about children's and youth activities.

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### Wednesday, 6 December 2023

**12:30 Holy Communion**  
Leading & Preaching:  
John Wilkinson

## Our readings this week

Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the Christian year. It is a time of penitential preparation for our Christmas celebration of the coming of our Saviour, as we look back to his birth, and forward to his coming again.

**Isaiah 64 1-9** We long for God to intervene in the powerful way that he has done in the past. Yet when God seems to be absent, hiding himself, we need to seize the opportunity to prepare for his coming. For our longing for his presence is tinged with a sense of our own sinfulness. When we ask him to save us, it is not just by overcoming our enemies: it is about changing us, too.

**Psalms 80** Israel's great virtue was its readiness to cry for help to the God who loves them. The picture of the vine recalls both how he has worked for his people and yet now seems to have rejected them. Knowing that their troubles stem from their own failures, an undercurrent of penitence runs through the psalm, leading to a prayer that God will provide a leader to guide his people. If Israel longed for an earthly king, we know that God's answer far exceeded such a hope.

**Corinthians 1:3-9** The Christian life should balance eagerness for Christ's return with a readiness to make use of the grace and peace he has given us. If we do, our lives will make him known. God's intervention has already happened. We must use his gifts, confident that he will sustain us when we do his work.

**Mark 13:24-37** In dark and difficult times, Jesus' insistent message to his disciples is to be on guard, to be alert, awake and watchful for his return. His disciples should neither despair, nor become complacent, but should be living in constant expectation of that awesome day.

### Pointers for prayer

- What are the evils that prevent our society from enjoying the love of God? We must lay them before God
- God has empowered us with his grace. Do our lives confidently make him known?
- Do we still expect God's power to change the world like fire that sets twigs ablaze?

[Our programme for the month is here](#)

# Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Coffee and tea are served downstairs after the 10:30 service, the bar is also open. Do come and join us downstairs. If you are new or visiting Brussels, we would love to meet you!

## 'Have a Heart 2023' campaign – can we beat last year's target?

For those of you who have kindly sponsored children at [Les Cailloux](#) children's home, please ensure that your gift is delivered to Holy Trinity this Sunday **3 December** in time for St Nicolas on 6 December. However, there is still time to support the cause by making a donation to the 'Friends of Holy Trinity' A/C: **BE67 1030 7048 2187** with 'Have a Heart 2023' as a reference. Last year, we were able to donate **1000€** to Les Cailloux as a result of your generosity! At present, donations are around 600€ - can we match last year's generosity? To make it even easier to give, the campaign has also been added to Holy Trinity's Donation Station. Finally, if you have any difficulty with delivery of your gift, please contact Geraldine Barry ([Geraldine.barry@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Geraldine.barry@ec.europa.eu)).

## Advent at Holy Trinity – as Advent begins,

- **Prayer for the Senior Chaplain vacancy and the appointment process.**

You may like to set aside some time each day or each week to concentrate on this. You may like to consider fasting while you pray, a great way to focus our attention on God, by missing a meal, or the next chapter of your book, or a trip to the cinema. We would also encourage you to attend the online Morning Prayer (9:00 Monday to Friday) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82809036058> and Compline (21:00 Monday to Friday) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89837499334> to pray with others. The password is 'htb'.

- We are not able to offer our **Advent Mediations** booklet this year, but a video mediation from one of the clergy will be sent to you each week during Advent.

- **The Bishop's Advent Appeal** this year is for the - **Anglican Communion Fund: South Asia** which will support various projects in Pakistan, South India and Myanmar. There is full information here: <https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/bishops-advent-appeal-2023-anglican-union-fund-south-asia>

You can donate on the 'Donation Station' in the church entrance by scrolling down the list on the tablet or send your donation to The Friends of Holy Trinity Brussels ASBL IBAN: BE67 1030 7048 2187.

Our **Christmas Carol Services** schedule is as follows:

**10 December 18:00 Christmas Light** - At this contemporary carol service, we will look at what Christmas means to us today. This year we explore the songs associated with Christ's birth in the Gospel with the theme 'Light and Hope in Darkness'.

**16 December 15:00 & 17 December 19:00 Nine Lessons & Carols** - Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see! Join us for a traditional service of carols and readings that bring the story of Christ's birth to life. We encourage those who can attend the Saturday afternoon service (**16 Dec**) in the Cathédrale des Saints Michel et Gudule to do so, since seating there is plentiful. At the Sunday evening service in Holy Trinity (**17 Dec**), seating may be in short supply.

**Light in Darkness 21 December 19:30** - The holiday season is not easy for many who are grieving, wounded, lonely or isolated. During this period, it is important to set aside space to acknowledge how difficult this time of year can be for some. This service is an opportunity to bring our sadness to God as the One who compassionately understands our pain.

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Our **Church Council** meeting will take place on **Monday, 4 December** at 19:30 via Zoom. If you are on the Electoral Roll and would like to receive papers for this meeting, please contact the office at [admin@holytrinity.be](mailto:admin@holytrinity.be). If you have any questions, please contact your Council representatives or the wardens.

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### Gift account for **pledges and donations:**

The Friends of Holy Trinity  
Brussels asbl  
IBAN: BE67 1030 7048 2187

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Donations to the  
**Community Kitchen**  
@HTB ASBL Gift Account  
IBAN BE92 3631 1846 4423  
BIC code: BBRUBEBB

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**The Prayer Chain**  
welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please contact Carole Ludlow on [celudlow@gmail.com](mailto:celudlow@gmail.com) or Sister Julian on [birteday@gmail.com](mailto:birteday@gmail.com).

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### Online Morning and Night Prayer

Did you know that members of Holy Trinity meet together for prayer online throughout the week? You can drop in on any day and join the prayers. The password is 'htb'.

Morning prayer:

Monday to Friday, 9:00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82809036058#success>

Compline/Night prayer:

Monday to Friday, 21:00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89837499334#success>

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**\*For requests and offers of accommodation or employment, Holy Trinity Brussels is not responsible for asking for appropriate checks and references, or for any contracts. These are the responsibility of all the parties involved.**

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**Please avoid taking photos or videos during services unless you have sought prior permission to do so.**

**Thank you!**

*The majority of services and concerts taking place at Holy Trinity are being live streamed to Youtube via Zoom. We do our best not to record private individuals. Individuals taking part in the service and/or concert as choir members, musicians, serving team, etc., will be recorded. On some occasions photos are also taken by a member of the Holy Trinity ministry team for use on social media and the church website.*

**If you wish to opt out, send an email to [admin@holytrinity.be](mailto:admin@holytrinity.be).**

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## A message from the Vrolijks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Dear Friends, We hope you are well. Earlier this week we received your 'livre d'or'. Thank you so much for your love-filled messages and photos. Very precious memories, which we will treasure forever. We also would like to thank you for your very generous monetary gift, which we received a while back. However, our utmost gratitude flows from the life we shared and for the hope we have. You remain in our prayers. Love and blessings, Joyfully in Him!

Paul and Janine Vrolijk

**Godly Play training!** In January 2024 there will be a new opportunity to follow the training for Godly Play at Holy Trinity. Godly Play is the spiritual formation we use in our children's ministry for the under-10s. A creative, open, tactile approach for children (and adults!) to explore the stories of the Bible and the Church and our place in those stories! Dates - **13th, 20th & 27th January 2024** More info: [philip.milton@holytrinity.be](mailto:philip.milton@holytrinity.be)

It's already the 4th autumn since our **church garden** was re-established! While the evergreen shrubs will still be lovely throughout the winter, last Sunday other bits of the garden benefited from an end-of-season tidy up from a very efficient garden team. We re-cleared paths, processed the compost, pruned and weeded. If you're interested in some compost for your garden or would like to adopt some bugles (evergreen ground cover and amazing blue flowers in spring), please contact Mano ([manodoye@gmail.com](mailto:manodoye@gmail.com)). The garden team would also be very pleased if you wanted to join us!

Did you know that Holy Trinity runs a **Foodbank**, through the Community Kitchen and via our partner organisation L'Olivier? Three of our male beneficiaries need winter boots and coats: size 45 boots and XL size warm jackets. Can you help? If so, please bring these along to church on Sunday and Annie will make sure that they reach the people in need. Write to [annie.bolger@holytrinity.be](mailto:annie.bolger@holytrinity.be) if you'd like to coordinate further.

**The Prayer Chain** welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please contact Carole Ludlow at [celudlow@gmail.com](mailto:celudlow@gmail.com) or Sister Julian at [birteday@gmail.com](mailto:birteday@gmail.com).

## Accommodation wanted\*

**(1)** From time to time, Holy Trinity is made aware of people in precarious situations who need a place to live. Currently we have two regular attendees of the 10:30 service who are in such a position. Both individually are able to offer a small compensation for housing (roughly €400 monthly). If you know of any place where these members of the community might be able to live, please contact Annie Bolger ([annie.bolger@holytrinity.be](mailto:annie.bolger@holytrinity.be)).

**(2)** Roberto is a young man also in need of housing while he is conducting an internship in Brussels. He is looking for a room to rent (roughly €350 monthly) from December. He speaks Portuguese, English, and French. He works 7 days a week and would not be home very often. Please contact Annie Bolger ([annie.bolger@holytrinity.be](mailto:annie.bolger@holytrinity.be)).

## Creation Corner

*A new section of the newsletter highlighting ways that we can be better stewards of the earth!*

The heating in church is operational again! But what a good reminder to us all to address climate change and reduce heating bills by testing how draughty or leaky our spaces are. Now is also a very good time to prepare for winter by sticking tinfoil or radiator panels between the wall and radiator, as these will help reflect heat back into your home during the colder months. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, gaps around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, etc.) and fill these gaps using the correct materials. There are lots of handy tutorials on how to do this online.

### **The Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity Brussels Rue Capitaine Crespel 29, B-1050 Brussels**

**Website:** [www.holytrinity.be](http://www.holytrinity.be)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBrussels](http://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBrussels)

**Instagram:** @holytrinitybrussels

**Phone:** 02 511 71 83 **Email:** [admin@holytrinity.be](mailto:admin@holytrinity.be) **Whatsapp:** +32 460 950449

**Office hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:15 to 12:30; Tuesday 9:15 to 16:00

**Newsletter items:** to [admin@holytrinity.be](mailto:admin@holytrinity.be) by 9:00 Wednesday

**Senior Chaplain & Canon Chancellor:** vacant

**Acting Senior Chaplain and Canon Pastor:** The Revd Canon John Wilkinson [john.wilkinson@holytrinity.be](mailto:john.wilkinson@holytrinity.be)

**Assistant Chaplain:** The Revd Jean Bosco Turahirwa [jean.bosco.turahirwa@holytrinity.be](mailto:jean.bosco.turahirwa@holytrinity.be)

**Assistant Chaplain:** The Revd Annie Bolger [annie.bolger@holytrinity.be](mailto:annie.bolger@holytrinity.be)

**National Anglican prison chaplains based at HTB:**

Mrs Grace West, The Revd Charles Kabera, Mr Eric Sibomana

**MES Intern:**

**Readers:** Ms Heather Roy; Mrs Ozichi Baron; Mr Jacob Quick; Mrs Grace West; Mr Arttu Makipaa;  
Mr Eric Sibomana

**Youth Coordinator:** Philip Milton [philip.milton@holytrinity.be](mailto:philip.milton@holytrinity.be)

**Precentor/Music Director:** Dr David Mitchell [david.mitchell@holytrinity.be](mailto:david.mitchell@holytrinity.be)

**Safeguarding officer:** Geraldine Barry [safeguarding@holytrinity.be](mailto:safeguarding@holytrinity.be)

### **Central Committee of the Anglican Church in Belgium (based at HTB)**

**Chaplain-President:** The Revd Canon Prof Jack McDonald

**Secretary General:** The Revd Canon Stephen Murray [secretary@anglican.be](mailto:secretary@anglican.be)

**Second Secretary:** Ms Rebecca Breekveldt

**Communications Secretary (part time):** Mr Charles Melebeck