



HOLY TRINITY

BRUSSELS

Advent 2

10 December 2023

Our readings this week

Isaiah 40:1-11 The cry of God's people in exile has been "How long?" Suddenly, into their longing comes the answer. The pain of separation is ended. "My people" and "Your God" are again in covenant relationship. God's returning exiles, flocking down his high road, will encounter God himself in his glory. The seemingly invincible powers of oppression wither like a flower in the desert, as God shepherds his own, bringing the comfort that the weary long for.

Psalms 85:1,2 8-end Even in our dark world, with its pattern of murder, robbery, economic catastrophe and abuse of relationships, salvation is close. God is only too ready to reach out with his loving care. His captains stand prepared to sweep down, bearing love, faithfulness, righteousness and peace. When God's people cry to him, they need only be prepared to listen if they would hear good news.

2 Peter 3:8-15a How long until the Lord returns? He is not slow but patient, giving us time to draw near. The coming of Christ will bring a wonderful new age, but we should not treat the prospect lightly. Peter urges Christian people to prepare ourselves for the righteousness of the new age by living now in a way that is holy and godly, spotless and blameless. If we do so, we can look forward in peace to his coming.

Mark 1:1-8 Jesus' arrival on the scene will be dramatic. An array of prophecies lead us through John the Baptist who, clad as an Old Testament prophet, heightens the sense of expectancy. Calling the people to a baptism of repentance, he points to one still greater. John has baptised symbolically, pouring water. The one to come will pour the Holy Spirit upon us.

Worship this week

Sunday, 10 December 2023

9:00 Holy Communion
Leading & Preaching:
Annie Bolger

10:30 Holy Communion
Leading & Preaching:
Annie Bolger

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

14:00 Holy Communion FR/EN
Leading: Jean Bosco Turahirwa
Preaching: Charles Kabera

[YouTube](#)

18:00 Christmas Light
Leading: Annie Bolger
Preaching: John Wilkinson

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

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

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

12:30 Holy Communion
Leading & Preaching:
Annie Bolger

Pointers for prayer

- Pray for all who cry to God, that they may hear his response
- Pray for those who are bringing God's comfort to a world in distress
- Proclaiming the good news is the task of the whole church – each one of us. Isaiah tells us not to be afraid. How are we doing?
- Does my life show evidence of being prepared for Jesus to return?

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

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Gift account for **pledges and donations:**

The Friends of Holy Trinity
Brussels asbl

IBAN: BE67 1030 7048 2187

Donations to the **Community Kitchen**

@HTB ASBL Gift Account
IBAN BE92 3631 1846 4423
BIC code: BBRUBEBB

Scan QR to download our
**Order of Service for our
Carol Services**



Scan QR to know more of
**our Advent & Christmas
services**



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!

Join us this Sunday evening at 18:00 for Christmas Light – a 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**'.

Advent at Holy Trinity –

- **Pray 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 Meditations** booklet this year, but a video meditation 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 other **Christmas Carol Services** schedule is as follows:

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.

Seniors' tea party We will hold an in-person tea party at the home of Pam Clements at 31 Avenue Leopold III, 1970 Wezembeek-Oppem on **Wednesday, 17 January** from **15:00 to 17:30**. You are welcome to come along! Please let admin@holytrinity.be or Pam Clements (pamclements@outlook.com / 0474 970 876) know if you would like to attend.

**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>

The Prayer Chain

welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please contact Carole Ludlow on celudlow@gmail.com or Sister Julian on birteday@gmail.com.

'Have a Heart' campaign 2023 – thank you & a last little

ask! A very warm thanks to all who have contributed to this year's 'Have a Heart' campaign for [Les Cailloux](#). The presents were dropped off in time to the home and you can how nicely everything was prepared for the St Nicolas festivities ([see photo](#)). Can we reach or even exceed last year's additional donation of 1000€ to Les Cailloux? **One last ask!** Can we reach or even exceed last year's additional donation of 1000€ to Les Cailloux? **All we need is another 120€ to get there!** Donations can be made to the 'Friends of Holy Trinity A/C: **BE67 1030 7048 2187 with 'Have a Heart 2023'** as a reference. The campaign has been added to Holy Trinity's Donation Station to make it even easier to give.

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

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). 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 if you'd like to coordinate further.

***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.**

Scan QR to join HTBs official Whatsapp group



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.

Accommodation wanted*

(1) Rachael attends the 10:30 service and is in need of a place to live. She can offer a small compensation for housing (roughly €400 monthly). If you know of any place where she might be able to live, please contact Annie Bolger (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).

The wider church

Hidden Gems is running a community singing event in Brussels from **9-12 May 2024**. For full details on how to register and what it is about, see their [poster](#), also pinned in the church lobby.

Creation Corner

Encouraging & empowering this community to become better stewards of the earth

Low-impact Christmas – Christmas time often puts us under pressure to consume: buying gifts for people that have much, eating more than usual, using disposable items for gatherings.... How can we keep the spirit of giving, sharing and celebration without contributing to overconsumption and waste? For this festive season, consider these green ideas. For gifts, give an activity, make something homemade, buy second hand, write a thoughtful card or letter, donate in someone's name, curate a music playlist or a reading list, or do a name draw to reduce the number of gifts. For wrapping, use reusable gift bags or cloth. For meals, think quality over quantity, and choose seasonal, local ingredients. More ideas [here](#).

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

Website: www.holytrinity.be

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBrussels

Instagram: @holytrinitybrussels

Phone: 02 511 71 83 **Email:** 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 by 9:00 Wednesday

Senior Chaplain & Canon Chancellor: vacant

Acting Senior Chaplain and Canon Pastor: The Revd Canon John Wilkinson john.wilkinson@holytrinity.be

Assistant Chaplain: The Revd Jean Bosco Turahirwa jean.bosco.turahirwa@holytrinity.be

Assistant Chaplain: The Revd Annie Bolger 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

Precentor/Music Director: Dr David Mitchell david.mitchell@holytrinity.be

Safeguarding officer: Geraldine Barry 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

Second Secretary: Ms Rebecca Breekveldt

Communications Secretary (part time): Mr Charles Melebeck