



HOLY TRINITY BRUSSELS

Advent 3
12 December 2021

Our readings this week

Worship this week

Sunday 12 December, 2021

9:00 Holy Communion

Leading: John Wilkinson
Preaching: John Wilkinson

10:30 Holy Communion

Leading: Paul Vrolijk
Preaching: John Wilkinson

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

14:00 Holy Communion

Leading: Charles Kabera
Preaching: Jean-Bosco
Turahirwa

[YouTube](#)

18:00 Christmas Light

Leading: John Wilkinson
Preaching: Annie Bolger

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

Wednesday 15 December, 2021

12:30 Holy Communion

John Wilkinson

*Sunday School groups
meet in church.*

*Contact our Children's
and Youth worker [Anna
Zödi](#) for more details
about children's and
youth activities.*

Zephaniah 3:14-end Much of this short book, set just before the exile, is a shrill denunciation of the corruption of Jerusalem. But it ends with a re-assuring promise of restoration. This is the God who punishes but restores, who longs to bless his obedient people. He will gather in his scattered people, and honour them before the whole world.

Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) Mary's great poem of praise merits continued reflection. That is why we use it in Christian worship. Mary recognises that the God of mighty works is also the God of reversals. Those content in their self-sufficiency find themselves humbled, while the lowly servant is exalted. He is the One who has never forgotten, nor will ever forget, his humble people down the ages.

Philippians 4:4-7 We have a God who is near, listening to our prayers, longing that we should know the blessings that accompany the Christian life. The special gift of which he speaks is peace, using words that we have taken over and use regularly in church. These are verses to meditate and to learn, so that we can enter into the joy of being Christian.

Luke 3:7-18 John the Baptist preached a powerful message of repentance and demanded that repentance should show itself in changed behaviour, in particular among those who habitually exploited others. He warned that on the coming day of the Lord, those who had repented would be separated from those who continued in their sin. While the repentant would be gathered in, the unrepentant would be burned, like unwanted chaff. Such a day of judgment can sound like bad news, yet the gospel writer refers to it as good news. Can you tell why?

Pointers for prayer

Repentance is about turning away from evil, towards God. Where are my eyes set? That is the key to the blessings that God offers to those who are his people;

God promises the restoration of his people. Being far away, or lame, will not be a problem. We can be God's agents in that work, if we are willing;

God offers his people the rescue that brings delight, rejoicing, joy, peace. Praise him!

**To hold services in church,
we need more hosts!**

As we now have increased numbers at services of worship, we must keep everyone COVID-safe! Three volunteers are needed for each service to welcome and direct people, dispense hand sanitizer, maintain social distancing, etc. Training is available and a handy manual is prepared with clear instructions. Please let the office know or email Sunil (for 10:30 service only) at gsunilj@gmail.com if you would like to help, which services you are available for, and which dates. Thank you!

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

Thank you!

The Prayer Chain

welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please contact Janine Vrolijk on janine.vrolijk@gmail.com or Carole Ludlow on celudlow@gmail.com.

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

The Covid situation in Brussels remains serious. Following the announcement by the Belgian government last week, we can report that for now nothing will change for us at Holy Trinity Brussels. **However, we would like to ask you to remain diligent in booking for services** through ChurchSuite or through the church calendar on our website: holytrinity.be/churchsuite-calendar. If you need any help, please email admin@holytrinity.be or call us. With a busy December month, we would be very sorry if we had to turn people away at the door because we were full. Many thanks for your cooperation!

The following measures are in place to keep us COVID-safe in church:

- * Keep 1,5m distance at all times.
- * Use the alcohol gel when you enter church.
- * Masks are obligatory for everyone over 6 years of age.
- * Soft singing is allowed beneath masks.

'Hybrid worship' (following and participating in the service in church and online) will continue for Sunday services at 10:30, 14:00 and 18:00.

This year our **Bishop's Advent Appeal** is for European Climate Disaster Relief, focused on assisting agencies that are working in parts of Europe, as they bring support to those who are affected by man-made climate change. Full details on how to donate to the fund can be found [here](#).

Advent meditations booklet The meditations, one for each day of Advent and for the festival day of Christmas too are posted daily online on the Holy Trinity [Facebook page](#) and on the [blog](#) or in pdf form on the church website for you to print at home. *David & Jane Brown*

Community Kitchen Christmas Plans We will be very busy over the Christmas period. In addition to our usual meals for the Red Cross Centre (500 portions each time) on 20, 21 and 22 December, we are planning some special Christmas meals:

- Christmas Meal for people in need at Holy Trinity on 24 December
- Christmas meal for Red Cross Centre (500 portions) on 26 December

If you will have any spare time over (or before) Christmas and would like to help, there will be plenty of opportunities. You could:

- bake Christmas cookies to distribute with our meals
- volunteer in the kitchen
- help serve the meal on 24 December
- help portion the meals for the Red Cross Centre
- donate money to cover our extra "Christmas" costs

Let us know – community.kitchen@holytrinity.be Thanks!

The Diocese in Europe is holding **'Hope for all time'** an online Service of Advent on Wednesday, **15 December** at 18:30 CET. All are welcome to join via [Zoom](#) or [YouTube](#). Details of the invitation can be found [here](#).

*Gift account for pledges
and donations:*

*The Friends of Holy Trinity
Brussels asbl*

IBAN: BE67 1030 7048 2187

Morning and Night Prayer

Would you like to join others at HTB for prayer? Heather Roy is overseeing this ministry and if you have any questions, please email her at heather.roy@gmail.com. Join us at the following links, from Monday to Friday:

- Morning Prayer – 9:00
([Zoom link](#); Meeting ID 828 0903 6058)
 - Night Prayer/Compline – 21:00 ([Zoom link](#); Meeting ID 898 3749 9334)
-

Nine Lessons and Carols | 19 December at 16:00 and 19:00

Join us for a traditional service of carols and readings that bring the story of Christ's birth to life! **Registration is crucial:** we expect to reach capacity and we do not wish to turn anyone away at the door. This service will also be offered on 18 December at 15:00 at the Cathedral of St Michael and St Gudula (please refer to their website for more detailed information).

Living in Love and Faith How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church? When there are strongly held differences among us, we are tempted to form like-minded groups or factions. We can all play a part in seeking unity in our Church as well as in the wider community. This course in five video-based sessions, encourages us to find creative ways to grow and learn together in the love of Christ. If you would like to be involved in such a group course please contact Jane Brown (jbrown19203@gmail.com or 0471 06 07 11) or the church office (admin@holytrinity.be).

Paul will be taking a sabbatical leave of 3 months starting from 17 January. He hopes to use this time away for deep rest, prayer, retreat, study and some writing, especially on the topic of resilience.

Important notice about church key cards. The keycards that we use to gain access to church buildings are expensive and time consuming for the church to acquire as they have to be programmed by Chubb, the supplier of the door security system. Our stocks are running low and yet there are many keycards held by members of the church community which are not used. The Administrator is therefore asking that if you have a keycard in your possession but no longer need it, please return it to the office. The keycard could be dropped in the letter box or sent through the post to Holy Trinity, Rue Capitaine Crespel 29, 1050 Bruxelles. Thank you for helping us to restore our stock of keycards.

Accommodation wanted

for one quiet retiree. A studio flat or room with washing facilities and shared kitchen would suffice. Ready to pay fair rent.
Call Rita on 0470 11 77 63.

One of our parishioners, Deanne Lehman Barnard, is looking for a room to rent in a private home from February. She would prefer to find something near Holy Trinity or Place Luxembourg, but elsewhere is also welcome. She intends to stay in Brussels an average of 10-12 consecutive days/month, and needs only very limited access to a refrigerator/kitchen. If you have an available room, you can contact her at: deanne.lehman@gmail.com or on her mobile telephone: +32 473 84 99 32.

The Wider Church

Brussels International Singers are holding their Christmas Carols Concert on 17 December at 19:30. For all details, [download their poster](#).

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

Website: www.holytrinity.be

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBrussels

Instagram: @holylrinitybrussels

Phone: 02 511 71 83

Email: admin@holylrinity.be

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

Newsletter items: to admin@holylrinity.be by 9:00 Wednesday

Senior Chaplain & Canon Chancellor: The Revd Canon Dr Paul Vrolijk paul.vrolijk@holylrinity.be

Canon Pastor: The Revd Canon John Wilkinson john.wilkinson@holylrinity.be

Associate Chaplain: The Revd Dr Catriona Laing catriona.laing@holylrinity.be

Assistant Curates: The Revd Jean Bosco Turahirwa jean.bosco.turahirwa@holylrinity.be

and The Revd Annie Bolger annie.bolger@holylrinity.be

National Anglican prison chaplains based at HTB:

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

MES Intern: Mr Teus Vermeer teus.vermeer@holylrinity.be

Readers: Ms Heather Roy; Mrs Ozichi Baron; Mr Jacob Quick

Children's & Youth Worker: Ms Anna Zödi anna.zodi@holylrinity.be

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

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

Chaplain-President: The Revd Canon Prof Jack McDonald

Secretary: The Revd Jo Jan Vandenheede