



HOLY TRINITY

BRUSSELS

Advent 3

17 December 2023

Our readings this week

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 The inspired prophet announces the coming of a wonderful time of justice, faithfulness and righteousness. There will be salvation for the poor, healing for the broken-hearted, liberty for captives, comfort for those who mourn. It will be the year of the Lord's favour, the time when debts and obligations are written off and slaves are freed. Small wonder that it will be accompanied by praise. We need to remember that Jesus applied this text to his own coming among his people.

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.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Paul is summing up what is most important for the young church. It is always useful for Christians to remember that being joyful, willing servants of the Spirit of God is at the heart of this. So also is being open to the continuous process of sanctification, by which the Holy Spirit makes us more and more like Jesus, so that when he comes we may be ready to meet him.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 All the gospels give great importance to John the Baptist. They also recall that John pointed beyond himself. His witness is remarkable for being at once so vigorous and so self-effacing, especially as many people recognised him as no ordinary human, but as one sent from God. His rejection of the titles of Messiah, Elijah and the prophet may have to do with his repudiation of a mistaken idea of the Messiah, for whom he is preparing the way.

Pointers for prayer

- God is not impressed by the things that impress the world. Where do I stand?
- Pray that the whole church may be faithful and obedient to God's demands, however unexpected
- Christians have so much to be joyful about. Now is a good time to raise the level of our praise.

Worship this week

Sunday, 17 December 2023

9:00 Holy Communion
Leading: Annie Bolger
Preaching: Jacob Quick

10:30 Holy Communion
Leading: Annie Bolger
Preaching: Jacob Quick

[Zoom; YouTube](#)

19:00 A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Preaching: Annie Bolger

[Zoom; YouTube](#)

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

Wednesday, 20 December 2023

12:30 Holy Communion
Leading & Preaching:
Annie Bolger

Thursday, 21 December 2023

19:30 Light in Darkness

[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 Service



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!

Soapy Sunday is today! Please share the following items this Sunday which we will pass along to the Salvation Army and the women's prison: women's sanitary items, nappies, new underwear for women, men and children (open packages are just fine), and **unopened** shower gel, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, men's razors and shave cream. We have a box for you to deposit them at the back of church. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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.

The Community Kitchen needs many helping hands during the Christmas period (18th December to 1st January). Seven days a week there are opportunities to cook or to portion meals for our neighbours. Do sign up on the ServeNow app or contact admin@communitykitchen.be to volunteer. Thank you!

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

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.

Oasis has just released its 2nd cookbook '**flavours of the world**' in English and French! It contains amazing recipes from women supported by the Oasis Welkom Project. The Oasis Welkom Project supports women who experienced domestic abuse and/or exploitation to rebuild their lives. All profits from the book will go directly towards the work of supporting these women and their children. You can pre-order for yourself or a gift through this link: <https://h0i9o92ugl7.typeform.com/to/Z0hfCnGH>*

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

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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