



HOLY TRINITY BRUSSELS

Advent 4 / Christmas Eve
24 December 2023

Our readings this week

Worship this week

Sunday, 24 December 2023

9:00 Holy Communion

Leading & Preaching:
Annie Bolger

10:30 Nativity Service (not Communion)

Leading: Philip Milton
All Age Talk: Jacob Quick

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

14:00 Holy Communion

Leading: Grace West
Preaching: Jean Bosco Turahirwa

[YouTube](#)

22:00 Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Leading & Preaching:
Annie Bolger

[YouTube](#)

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

Christmas Day Holy Communion

9:00, 10:30, 15:00 Services
No evening service

**There are no Wednesday services on
27 December or on 3 January.
We resume on 10 January.**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 God dwells among us by his choice, not because we feel that it is appropriate that he should do so. There is a fine line between honouring God and feeling that he is in our power. God is always sovereign, always free, yet consistently chooses to care for us. How privileged we are to have a God who has chosen to care for us.

[The Magnificat Mary rejoices in the way in which God overturns the familiar order, resetting it according to his lights. God is unimpressed by pride, worldly authority, or human riches. It is to the poor, the hungry, the humble that he comes. It is among them that he will find people willing to be his servants. Mary is the model for the class of people on whom God's mercy and blessing has fallen and will always fall.] or

[Psalm 89 The fabric of this long song bears praise for God's goodness over many generations. If the covenant promise to David seems far from fulfilment, it is because of the failures of God's people. Yet to the eye of the poet, things seem to have gone too far. His cry *How long, O Lord?* conveys his deep longing for fulfilment. That note of longing was chosen to conclude the third book of psalms.]

Romans 16:25-27 Salvation has been brought to us by God's plan and power alone and is available to us and to all people through Jesus. It is not something that we could ever have earned, but it is graciously offered to us as a gift that we can make our own by accepting it with faith. The appropriate response is the praise of our hearts.

Luke 1:26-38 We need to be silent before this so-familiar story. God is about to fulfil his ancient promise. It will be his doing. But it needs human acceptance to become effective. Mary, though troubled, accepts so offering a model of Christian response to God that has shone down the ages.

Pointers for prayer

- Be still in amazement before God's action of love, and be open to it
- The world is full of people who desperately need God's love in their lives, but do not hear him, or cannot respond. The way we respond to God speaks to them, for good or for ill
- Meditate on Jesus, the wisdom of God, the Lord of his people, descendant of Jesse fulfilling long-standing promise, the key that opens the door of eternal life, God's fresh light for the world, the ruler of the nations: God with us.

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

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

The 10:30 service will be a special **Nativity service** for all ages, without Holy Communion. **A special invitation to join us for the pre-launch of the Community Café between the 10:30 and 14:00 services!** Linger with friends and meet new people too, over a cup of coffee or a bowl of soup.

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

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.

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>

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.

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.

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 needs 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).

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>*

The annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** runs from Thursday 18 January and continues to Thursday 25 January. The **Service of Prayer** for the week will be in the **Cathédrale des Saints Michel et Gudule de Bruxelles** on **Thursday 25 January at 19:00**.

Creation Corner

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

The birth of Jesus was the beginning of a lifetime devoted to deep, radical change in society.

Whether you are inspired by the lines of the Magnificat to "scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts", or the lines of the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth," Christmas must be the time when we renew our resolve to ensure that "God's will is done on Earth as it is in heaven".

...It is time to think deeply about our economy and how it can be made to work better...The Open Bible lists 100 verses relating to Christ's exhortation to "give up everything to follow me". It is a challenge that makes most of us feel uncomfortable, but maybe within those verses is the sort of economic system that could save humanity. ~ Edward Gildea, [St Mary's Church Saffron Walden](#)

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