



HOLY TRINITY BRUSSELS

Christmas 1
31 December 2023

Our readings this week

Worship this week

Sunday, 31 December 2023

9:00 Holy Communion

Leading & Preaching:
Annie Bolger

10:30 Holy Communion

Leading & Preaching:
Annie Bolger

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

14:00 Holy Communion

Leading: Charles Kabera
Preaching: Jean-Bosco Turahirwa

[YouTube](#)

22:30 Watchnight Holy Communion FR/EN

Leading & Preaching:
Jean-Bosco Turahirwa

[YouTube](#)

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 This is a song of praise about the vindication of Jerusalem after all its troubles – the great theme of the closing chapters of Isaiah. Jerusalem praises God for his salvation and for the establishment of righteousness, a promise whose fulfilment will be seen by the nations of the world. Jerusalem stands for the people of God.

Psalms 148 This is a call to the whole created order to join in the praise of God, following traditional Jewish cosmology. It starts from the heavenly beings. Then it moves on into the created world of mountains and seas; the forces of nature, fire, hail, snow and frost; animals, birds and fish; then the human race from the highest to the lowest, of whatever age or gender. Why? Because God has acted to save his people.

Galatians 4:4-7 Paul reminds the Galatian Christians of just what the coming of Jesus means. Jesus, God's son, human, a Jew came to redeem us – to buy us back from slavery. The verses contrast the status of slaves, our former state, with that of being children of God. It is children, not slaves, who call their father Abba, the affectionate 'Dad'. As God's children, we are his heirs. What a change Jesus has brought!

Luke 2:15-21 These words are so familiar that we may need to struggle to let them speak to us. After the message from God, the shepherds head for Jerusalem to see the confirmation of what they have been told. This confirmation they duly find – the text does not explain how. But the shepherds tell others what they were told and what they saw. Like John the Baptist before him, Jesus is circumcised and named according to the practise of Jewish law.

Pointers for prayer

- Think what it means that you are adopted by God as his child
- Pray for all those who are unable to rejoice in the coming of God into his world, or who know neither his righteousness nor his salvation, to experience the touch of his love
- Christmas is a very good time to praise God for his love of his creation - and that he has bought it back for himself.

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

**There is no Wednesday service
On 3 January.
We resume on 10 January.**

[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

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>

Thank you to all those who made our Christmas celebrations so joyful and welcoming; to the welcome teams, the flower arrangers, readers, intercessors, musicians and singers, preachers and service leaders, technical team, and servers of refreshments. Without this willing team of people our celebrations would not have been possible. Thank you for your ministries, exercised with care, grace, and efficiency.

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!

Welcome to the Revd Evelyn Sweerts-Vermeulen! Please welcome Evelyn at one of our upcoming services. Evelyn has recently moved back to Brussels after many years in Luxembourg, where she served her curacy. We are looking forward to seeing Evelyn at Holy Trinity in the coming months as she shares her ministry with us here.

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](#).

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.

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).

(2) Lore writes: I'm Lore, a woman of 29 years and I'm looking for a studio or co-housing in the French-speaking part of Brussels from mid-February until at least the end of June 2024. I'm looking for a space that is quiet and (partly) private, as I am a working student. I'm used to living together with other people and am a responsible and tidy person. Currently, I am finalising my bachelor in global law and a postgraduate in tropical medicine. Besides my studies, I will work. If you would have a place that corresponds to my needs, you can contact me via lore.ramon@gmail.com

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

Think of the stable described in Luke's gospel – the straw, the smell of animals, unwashed visitors from the surrounding countryside. Apart from a brighter-than-usual star glittering through the cracks in the wall, the trappings surrounding the birth of our Lord were about as minimal as you can get. Then look at how we celebrate this moment now. What a gift Christmas is to our consumer society, to an economy dead-set on economic growth whatever the consequences, to a system that relies on the distraction of retail therapy to blind us to both climate and ecological breakdown and the fulfilment of finding joy in enough. ~ *Green Christian*

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