



**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

**Music and Worship Notes**

**Gary Pope, organist and director of music**

**Advent 2014**

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us . . .

“Your lamps prepare and hasten there,  
That you the wedding feast may share.”

Phillip Nicolai (1556-1608)

*The Hymnal 1982, #61*

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Trinity Church,

We are ready to begin the new liturgical year (Year B) with the First Sunday of Advent this weekend. As the song says, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” The magic of the Christmas season surrounds us with colors, lights, music, shopping, preparations, decorations, family and friends. Wait! A voice astounds us by telling us to stay awake and alert, to pick up our lamps and hasten to a wedding feast we will all share. For four weeks in Advent we proceed into darkness at this time of year. We spiritually prepare in our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. We stay alert to keep Advent, hopefully without having to go through three spirits as Scrooge did in order for him to learn how to keep Christmas. The hustle and bustle is out in the secular world. In our church we will keep Advent – through the lighting of the Advent wreath, the Advent scriptures, the Advent hymns, and the Advent music. Then we gather as a church with family and friends on December 24 for the wedding feast, the birth of Jesus.

I hope you will attend Holy Eucharist each Sunday morning during Advent. If you are not out-of-town on December 24, make the 5:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols followed by Holy Eucharist a priority in your evening of dinner and family celebration. Come back to church on December 28 and January 4 for the Sundays of Christmas as the Christmas story continues. Consider attending the Wednesday evening Advent Vespers services on Dec. 3 and 17 at 6:30 p.m. to help you keep alert and continue your Advent journey.

Rev. Roger Walker will be our guest priest on Christmas Eve to celebrate the Eucharist with us. The Trinity Choir, Trinity Schola, and Children's Choir will provide their music ministries. We hope to have some instrumental music to supplement our organ and piano music. The Lessons and Carols before Holy Eucharist will be based on the Lessons and Carols of King's College, Cambridge, England.

During our time of transition, our center as a congregation and church family is weekly corporate worship through Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer. Midge Thomas is to be commended for her diligence in securing a guest priest for us each Sunday. We had Morning Prayer on Oct. 26. Our Third Sunday Evensong and Wednesday Vesper Services are prepared by our music Ministry. We had twenty-four people in attendance at our Thanksgiving Eve service!

I encourage you to worship with us each Sunday and on December 3 and 17. Our church will continue to be strong and be a beacon of ministry in our community if you are present and a part of corporate worship and fellowship.

I appreciate all who help in any way with our Third Sunday Evensong and Vesper Services. Our church is a beautiful place of worship, and evening worship by candlelight adds to the spirit of prayer and reflection.

I love Christmas. The music is exquisite. The colors and decoration are inspiring. The movie *White Christmas* is superb. The church services are inspirational and spiritual. Yes, I can put out twenty or more Christmas trees of all sizes in our home. I never have enough decorations on the trees or on display. My favorite time is late Christmas Eve after Theresa and I have played for our services. All is quiet. All is calm. All is bright in the room full of Christmas lights. Merry Christmas!

**November 30 - The First Sunday of Advent - 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Wednesday, December 3 and December 17 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Advent Candlelight Vespers Service**

**December 14 - Congregational Christmas Carol - Time TBA**

**December 21 - Greening of the Church following Holy Eucharist**

**December 24 - 5:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols followed by Holy Eucharist**

**December 28 - First Sunday after Christmas Day, 10:00 Holy Eucharist**

**January 4 - Second Sunday after Christmas Day**