



The Feast of the Epiphany Observed

Farewell Service for the Rev. Cindy Christopher

with Communion from Reserve

January 4, 2026, 10:15AM

Voluntary

Welcome

Deacon Cindy Christopher

Entrance Hymn

What star is this with beams so bright?

H 124, verses 1-4

Please stand or sit as best helps you pray and sing.

Opening Sentences

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Presider There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Gloria

Gloria

S 280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collects of the Day

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord, you have apportioned to your people the manifold gifts of the Spirit: Grant amid the changes of the world that your Church may abide, and be strengthened in ministry through continuous outpouring of your gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Response: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son,

**That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All rulers shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Sequence Hymn

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning

H 117, verses 1-2

Please stand or sit as best helps you pray and sing.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Sermon

The Rev. Cindy Christopher

The Creed

Please stand, sit, or kneel as best helps you pray.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Ending of a Deacon's Tenure

Deacon In September of 2021, I was assigned by Bishop Eugene Sutton to serve as deacon at Trinity Church Towson. I have, with God's help and to the best of my abilities, exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities. Now according to diocesan custom and direction from Bishop Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, I publicly state that my tenure as deacon of this parish will end today.

Minister Do you, the people of Trinity Church Towson, recognize and accept the conclusion of Deacon Cindy's tenure in this parish?

People **We do.**

Then the Deacon may express thanksgiving for the time of the tenure, with its joys and sorrows, and state hopes for the future of the congregation. She may also express her thanks to the representatives of parish organizations and offices, and indicate that those organizations will continue to function. She may then be joined by members of her family, who may express what life with the congregation has meant to them. One or more representatives of the congregation may briefly respond to the Deacon and family, and bid them Godspeed.

The departing Minister and the congregation then say together the following prayer

O God, you have bound us together for a time as deacon and laypeople to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in these years now past.

Silence

We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart. We thank you for your forgiveness and mercy in the face of our many failures.

Silence

Especially we thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have attained.

Silence

We thank you for those who have been joined to this part of Christ's family through baptism. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son.

Silence

Now, we pray, be with those who leave and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Deacon May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements & Blessings

Birthdays: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant/s as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anniversaries: O God, who has given us the sacrament of marriage that we may know you through the intimacy of married love; send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and kindness, that

their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Travelers: O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel especially these your children; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14



The Offertory is when we make a sacred gift to God as part of our worship. You can give by putting cash or checks in the offering plate as it comes by or make an electronic offering by texting Trinitytowson to 73256 or using the QR code provided. If you give electronically, please participate in the liturgy by placing one of the e-giving cards found in your pew into the plate. Even if you can't make a financial contribution, you can acknowledge your offering of time and talent to Trinity by using one of the "I give my heart to God" cards found in the Narthex (or lobby) of the Church.

Offertory Hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky

WLP 812

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in deep - est sin My hand will
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them, They turn a -
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will

save. I who made the stars of night,
 way. I will break their hearts of stone,
 save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
 Give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
 Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

light to them? Whom shall I send? _____
word to them. Whom shall I send? _____
life to them. Whom shall I send? _____

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. _____ Is it I, Lord? _____ I have
heard you call-ing in the night. _____ I will go, Lord, _____
_____ if you lead me, _____ I will hold your peo - ple in my
1. 2. heart. _____ 3. heart. _____

Doxology

H 124 v. 5

Please stand or sit as best helps you pray and sing

Unison or harmony

5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -
5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly
5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

All stand as you are able when the offerings are presented.

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Deacon The Gifts of God. This is the table not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and those who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little. You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow, and you who have fallen short, come. It is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who wish to meet him should find him here.

The Communion

*In the Episcopal Church we distribute both the Bread and Wine of the Holy Communion, but receiving the Bread only is a full and valid communion. Please ask for a gluten-free wafer if you need one. Our normative practice is to drink from the deeper common cup, but you may also dip your wafer in one of the shallow chalices. If you would prefer not to receive communion, we invite you to come forward with your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. The sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, **but here at Trinity no one who comes forward to receive communion is ever turned away.***

The Bread and the Cup are given to communicants with these words.

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn *Seek ye first the kingdom of God*

H 711

Communion Hymn *Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord*

H 178

As needed

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants of your Word and Sacraments. We**

thank you especially for the work of Deacon Cindy among us. Grant that both she and we may serve you in the days ahead, and always rejoice in your glory, and come at length into your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer for Blessing

May God, who has led us in the paths of justice and truth, lead us still, and keep us in his ways. **Amen.**

May God, whose Son has loved us and given himself for us, love us still, and establish us in peace. **Amen.**

May God, whose Spirit unites us and fills our hearts with joy, illumine us still, and strengthen us for the years to come. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Lift High the Cross

H 473

Please stand or sit as best helps you pray and sing.

Dismissal

<i>Deacon</i>	Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord!
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!



About Grace that Hinges Toward Open
by the Rev. Timothy Dale Jones, Deacon
from *Where the Grace Lives*, p. 157.

Imagine how we would live
if we knew the doors
if we could see clearly
all that's on the other side
waiting to welcome us.

Imagine what we would do
for each other, or stop
doing to each other,
if everyone could get in
without illusions of control,
if there were enough grace,
love, food, blood, sacraments
for everyone,
if the brightness of God
in everything right in front of us
made us squint, almost blinding,
so that all our differences
appeared small, fragile, straw.

Imagine the quiet things
we could learn to speak
if we looked back at the world
and saw more than ourselves,
an epiphany of others
siphoning off everything
except companionship.

Imagine what holy medicine
such open doors would be.



Who We Are

Trinity Towson is a caring and diverse, Christ-centered community called to create and share opportunities for all people to worship God, serve others, and grow in faith as we travel on our spiritual journey. We pursue this mission through Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Episcopal Preschool, and the Surprise Shop. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community that encourages all people to love God and one another.

The Vestry of Trinity Church

Dara Lewis, *Senior Warden*
Tracy Martin, *Treasurer*

Cathy Evans, *Junior Warden*
Mary Beth Jorgensen, *Registrar*

Meg Gardner (2026)
Joel Moore (2026)

Mary Beth Jorgensen (2027)
Peggy King (2027)
Lucinda Shure (2027)
Jim Thierer (2027)

Tamara Daugherty (2028)
Tracy Martin (2028)

Trinity Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Henrietta L. Wiley, Rector
The Rev. Elizabeth Masterson, Associate Priest
The Rev. Cindy Christopher, Deacon
The Rev. Emily Holman, Assisting Deacon
Elizabeth Olson Wise, Diocesan Intern
Debbie Barnes, Office Manager
Tamara Daugherty, Interim Lay Associate
Jennifer Korczakowski, Business Manager
Brandon Smith, Digital Services Manager
Hardwick Spencer, Organist and Choir Director
MaryAnn Brandli, Contemporary Music Director
Mark Beatty, Facilities Manager
Brenda Jones, Director of Trinity Episcopal Preschool
Erin Beyland, Director of The Surprise Shop

Sunday Service Schedule

8am: Holy Communion Quiet Service
10:15am: Holy Communion Service with Music (also on YouTube & Facebook Live)

Weekday Services & Bible Study

Wednesday Night Live! Evening Prayer at 6pm only on YouTube & Facebook Live
Thursdays: 11am Bible Study (Zoom)



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