

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Celebrating 180 Years of Life and Ministry



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2025

4:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

***W**elcome to Trinity! Since its founding in 1845, Trinity has been a sacred space for Mobile. From the beginning, worship has been central to our common life. Trinity strives to be a humble outpost of the Kingdom of Heaven by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and walking the Way of Love.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS & WELCOME!

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

WELCOME to Trinity Episcopal Church and to this holy season of Christmas.

In his acclaimed autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain*, Thomas Merton chronicled his spiritual wanderings from a life totally devoid of God to a life lived only for God as a Trappist monk. Merton wrote about his first Christmas as a monk at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani in Kentucky:

“Christ always seeks the straw of the most desolate cribs to make his Bethlehem. In all the other Christmases of my life, I received a lot of presents and a big dinner. This Christmas I got no presents, and not much of a dinner; but I would have, indeed, Christ, God, the Savior of the World.

“You who live in the world: let me tell you that there is no comparing these two kinds of Christmases. . . the emptiness that had opened up within me that had been prepared during Advent and laid open by my own silence and darkness, now became filled. And suddenly I was in a new world.

“You know that Christ is born within you, infinite liberty: that you are free! . . . That there are no more limitations. That you can love! That you are standing at the threshold of infinite possibilities. . . .”

Tonight, the true miracle of Christmas continues to take place in the Bethlehem of our hearts. May each of us here at Trinity, come to know this “kind” of Christmas – a Christmas when Christ fills the hearts we have emptied in order to make room for the new born King!

Christmas Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark L. Fitzhugh', with a stylized, flowing script.

The Rev'd Mark L. Fitzhugh
Rector

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Voluntary

Hymnal 83 O come, all ye faithful *Adeste fideles*

The Acclamation and Collect for Purity **BCP 355**

Hymnal 87 Hark! the herald angels sing Mendelssohn

The Collect of the Day: Christmas Eve **BCP 212**

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Epistle **Titus 3:4-7**

Hymnal 105 God rest you merry, gentlemen *God Rest You Merry*

The Holy Gospel (KJV) **Luke 2:1-20**

First Carol – Hymnal 101 – Away in a manger *Cradle Song*

Second Carol – Hymnal 128 (vv 1-2) – We three kings *Three Kings of Orient*

Third Carol – Hymnal 79 (vv 1-2) – O little town of Bethlehem *St. Louis*

The Christmas Story **Children & Families**

The Prayers of the People (*All standing*)
The leader and people pray responsively.

We pray for peace.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our church and everyone in it.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our country and the whole world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you for our homes, our friends, and our families.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our pets, and all of God's creation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for people who are sick or sad.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for people who can't be here with us tonight, especially those in Heaven.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you for our schools, teachers and coaches.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you for the things that make us happy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray either silently or aloud for our own needs and those of others.

Celebrant

O God who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Peace

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to come to the Lord's Table. If you prefer to receive a blessing from the priest, please fold your arms across your chest. If you are unable to come to the altar rail, please notify an usher and Communion will be brought to you. Gluten-free hosts are available.

Hymnal 84

Love came down at Christmas

Gartan

Doxology Hymnal 380, v 3

Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving—Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Sanctus S 130

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Franz Schubert

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Fraction S 164

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

The Ministration of Communion

*During Communion, all are welcome to light a candle
at the prayer station in the Lady Chapel.*

Hymnal 99 (*seated*)

Go tell it on the mountain

Afro-American Spiritual

Hymnal 89

It came upon a midnight clear

Carol

Hymnal 111

Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Hymnal 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come

Antioch

The Festival Blessing

May Christ who by his Incarnation, gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

BCP 366

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of the Incarnate Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Music: All hymnody and service music is from the Hymnal 1982 and streamed under contract with onelicense.net, license #A-718225. *The Psalm:* The chant tone for the psalm is taken from *The Anglican Chant Psalter*, Edited by Alec Wyton. © 1987 by The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved.

On the front cover: “The Adoration by the Wise Men” by Rembrandt van Rijn.

SERVANT LEADERS

Celebrant The Rev'd Mark L. Fitzhugh; ***Altar Guild*** Florence Crawford, Kay Cruthirds, Leslie Flukinger, Kate Flukinger, Debbie McLean, and Becky Vance; ***Crucifer*** Jackson Webb; ***Chalicians*** Laurent Cadden and Steve Mussell; ***Intercessor*** Bob Howard : ***Lectors*** Ocllo Robinson and Beth Stepan; ***Ushers*** Ricky Creel and Mike Cadden.

THE PARISH PRAYER LIST

This Week: Doris Benson, Byron & Kay Cruthirds, Pat & Darrel Cyrus, Tom Holmes, Brenda Howard, Mona Porter, Nettie Robertson, Leona Rowan, Shane Sawyer, Brandy Snyder, and Shae Street.

Others we are praying for: Scott Anderson, Micki Ankerson, Jeanne Babin, Betsy Brown, Latrelle Brown, Linda Dumas, Nancy Elstner, Derrick Freeman, Christopher William Forwood, Katherine Galanos, Dottie Gill, Chris Gregory, Butch Harbaugh, David Hart, Adam Hicks, Bill Holmes, Carol Ann Holmes, Fred Holmes, Jr., Håkan Kårdén, Annette Kelley, Pam Lane, Rev. Scott Lenoir, Kerry Senne Logan, Jessica Luce, Ashley Holmes McCrary, the Seth Murray Family, Kay Biggers Overstreet, Tom Rotterman, Rev. Pam Strobel, Monty Thull, Glennie Weaver, David Whatley, Keith & Cathy Williams, and Stacey Yim.

Armed Services: Matthew Anderson, Marie Lacy, Charles Lewis, Jr., Robert O'Bryant, and Kevin O'Rourke.

CHRISTMASTIDE AT TRINITY

Worship Schedule

Every Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite One

10:30 am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Nursery available at 10:30 am only

Tuesdays

5:30 pm Compline

in Schroeter Chapel

Wednesdays

11:00 am Bible Study

Noon Holy Eucharist

in Schroeter Chapel

*The Chapel entrance is through the Memory Garden
between the Church and Parish House.*

Labyrinth

Walk our beautiful Labyrinth anytime in the Meadow.

Food Pantry

Mondays

9:30–11:30 am

Except for major holiday.

AA

Mondays and Thursdays

5:30 pm

If you are interested in learning more about Trinity or becoming a member of our community, please speak with our priest or call the church office at (251) 473-2779. Our office hours are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. You can also learn more about us through our website, www.trinitymobile.org.



PLEDGE 2026



or text GIVETEC to
73256

MAILING LIST



Clergy & Staff

The Rt. Reverend J. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*
The Rev'd Mark L. Fitzhugh, *Rector*
Brother Jacob Luke Taylor, OSB, *Parish Administrator*
Dawn Hearn, *Finance Administrator*
Jasmine Moultrie, *Parish Steward*
Ken Weber, *Organist*

Trinity Church Vestry

Anne Gill, *Senior Warden* (2027)
Charlie Nakash, *Junior Warden* (2025)
Maria Beck, *Clerk* (2026), Emily Blejwas (2027)
Harold Dodge (2026), Tom Holmes (2025)
John Howard (2025), Josh Robinson (2026)
Tommy Murray (2027), Michel Nicrosi, *Treasurer*

Trinity Episcopal Church

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