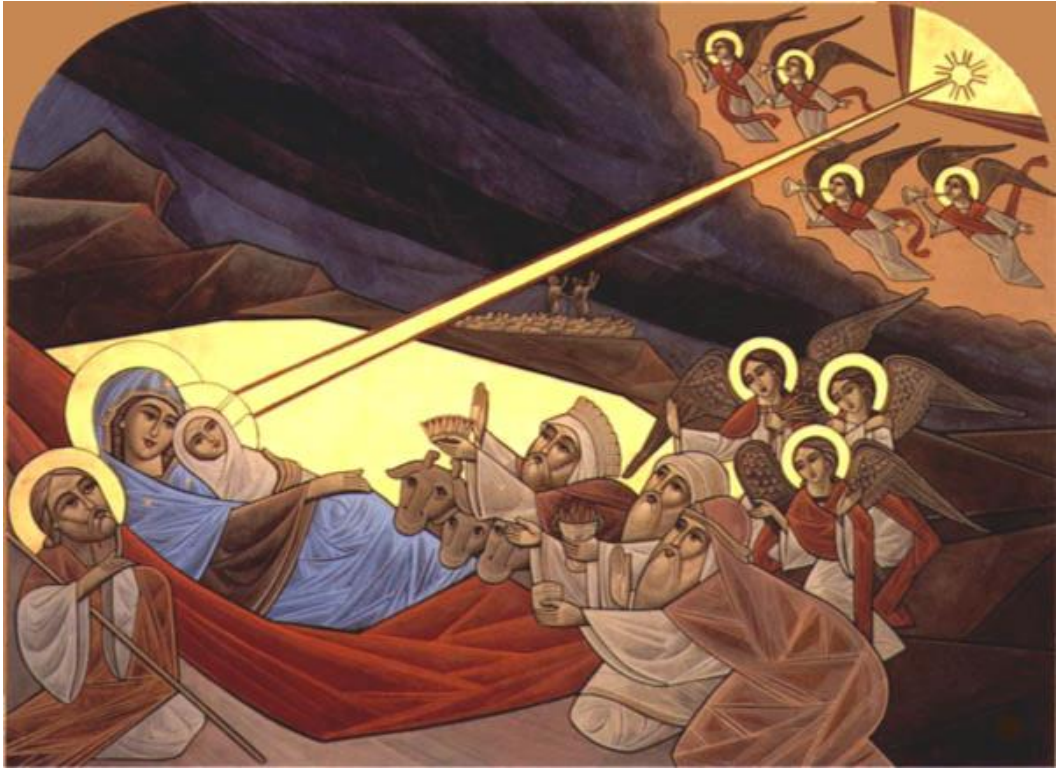


THE EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ALTON

Alton, Illinois



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024

Church Office Telephone – 618-465-9149

Church Email: episcopalalton@gmail.com

Admin. Assistant Office Hours – Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite I
The Word of God

Pre-Service Music

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Organ: <i>In the Bleak Mid-winter ('Cranham')</i> | arr. P. Lehenbauer |
| Organ: <i>Improvisation on 'Wander'</i> | D. Laskey |
| Solo: (Roy) <i>I Wonder as I Wander</i> | arr. G. Anderson |
| Choir: <i>'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime</i> | arr. G. Anderson |
| Organ: <i>Away in a Manger</i> | arr. G. Young |
| Choir: <i>What Child is This?</i> | English folk melody |
| Choir: <i>Do You Hear What I Hear?</i> | N. Regney |
| Solo: (Robbie) <i>'Cantique de Noel'</i> | arr. J Schrader |

Prelude

A Joyous Christmas

J. Leavitt

Station at the crèche

Celebrant and Altar Party stand at the Station with the congregation remaining in their pews.

*The Celebrant and People say: **O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!***

Celebrant: The word was made flesh

*People: **And dwelt among us.***

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of thy Son hath revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in thy very nature; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn #83

O come, all ye faithful

The Hymnal 1982

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis

#S202 The Hymnal 1982

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons *Please be seated*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 62:5-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the Lord,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,

prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,

clear it of stones,

lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed

to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the Lord";

and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97 *Dominus regnavit*

The people respond with the verses in bold italics

The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; *

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him, *

righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

A fire goes before him *

and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; *

the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *

at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness, *

and all the peoples see his glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *

Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *

because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; *

you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; *

he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous, *

and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *

and give thanks to his holy Name.

A reading from Paul's letter to Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #101

Away in a manger

The Hymnal 1982

Please stand if you are able

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2:1-20

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time

came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+

The Nicene Creed

Please stand

*I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,*

*God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.*

*And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve thee;
That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of thy Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do thy will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in thy sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise thee for the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Paul, and all thy saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence.

The Celebrant concludes with the following Collect,

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of thy people, and strengthen us to do thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

All kneel. Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

***Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Celebrant

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace *Please stand*
The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And with thy spirit.

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

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem (solo: Robbie) *Silent Night* (vs. 1-3 sung in German by Robbie first, then joined by congregation Hymn #111)

Presentation Hymn #380 *Praise God, from whom (vs 3 only)* *The Hymnal 1982*

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: *It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus

#S114 *The Hymnal 1982*

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty

goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

S#119 *Hymnal 1982*

People and Celebrant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

*Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Jesus, Lamb of God: Agnus Dei

#S158 *The Hymnal 1982*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

*The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying
this prayer*

*We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own
righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to
gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is
always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear
Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in
us. Amen.*

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to come forward to receive Communion, and everyone is welcome to come to the rail for a blessing.

If you do not wish to receive either the bread or the wine, please cross your arms across your chest as a silent request for a blessing from the priest.

Communion Anthem *Variations on 'est ist ein 'Ros' entsprungen'* G. Young,
J. Carter and G. Near

Post-Communion Prayer

After communion the Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Christmas 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 Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn #87

Hark! The herald angels sing

The Hymnal 1982

Postlude

'God Rest You Merry'

arr. N. Goemanne

The poinsettia in the Columbarium at St. Paul's is presented to the Glory of God by Ben Bickett in loving memory of Charles Bickett.

Thank you to Ron and Jean Downey for their loving restoration of the Nativity scene celebrated at St. Paul's.

SERVING TODAY

St. Paul's:

Celebrant: The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+
Organist: Gay Anderson
Crucifer: Tom Wrausmann
Altar Acolyte: Marti LoRusso
Acolyte: Nathalia Baum
Chalice/BB: Tom Harris
Lector: Chuck Drennan
Intercessor: Chuck Drennan
Thurifer: Donna Fisher
Altar Guild: S. Lukasik, A. Drennan, D Drennan
Greeters: April Drennan and Rosie Elkins

Sunday, December 29

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+
Gay Anderson
Robbie Cupp
Donna Fisher
Nathalia Baum
Marti LoRusso
Susan Lukasik
Susan Lukasik
E. Bumbacher, R. Cupp

Calendar and Announcements

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, December 25 | 10:00 a.m. <i>Christmas Day Mass</i> – Trinity Chapel |
| Thursday, December 26 | 5:30 p.m. <i>The Feast of St. Stephen</i> – Trinity Chapel |
| Friday, December 27 | 5:30 p.m. <i>The Feast of St. John the Evangelist</i> – Trinity Chapel |
| Saturday, December 28 | 12:00 p.m. <i>Feast of The Holy Innocents</i> – Trinity Chapel |
| Sunday, December 29 | <i>The First Sunday after Christmas</i> 8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's 12:15 p.m. Informational Session for Fall 2025 Retreat – Heneghan Hall |

A special thank you is extended to the altar guild, the choir, organist, vocalists and musicians for the beauty of Christmas worship at the Episcopal Parish of Alton.

Bible Study will not be held on December 31st. We look forward to resuming our study beginning with *The Book of Revelation* on Tuesday, January 7th, following Morning Prayer in St. Elizabeth's Chapel at 9:00 a.m. Bible study begins at 10:00 a.m. and lasts approximately an hour. **There is also an evening Bible Study that begins at 5:30 p.m.** All are welcome to join – be sure to bring your Bible!

If you would like to make a Christmas offering to benefit the Liturgy and Arts Fund, envelopes are included in your bulletin and are also available in the Narthex. Gifts will be acknowledged in the bulletins for Sunday, December 29th and Sunday, January 5th.

The 2025 Episcopal Church Year calendars are now available in Heneghan Hall – please take one for your use as we begin the New Year.

The boxed sets of envelopes for your pledged offering for 2025 are also available in Heneghan Hall. Please take the set that has been labeled for your use.

The Episcopal Parish of Alton now offers Online Giving! Scan the QR code to make one-time or monthly contributions.



Please remember in your prayers this week:



Roy, Charles, Anna, John, Joe, Connie, Missy, Tracy, Ron, Pete, Rebecca, Jeanne, Judy, Tori, John, Jeanie, Claudette, Marie, Charles, Robin, Bianca, Albert, Audrey, Terry, John, Don, Dan, Nolan, Helen, Greg, Don, Irene, Katie, Judy and those known only to us.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Given to the Glory of God

St. Paul's

In Thanks

Given by Donna Fisher in thanksgiving for my girls, my family and Don.

Given by Jack and Sandy Gottlob in thanksgiving for Nick, Carmen, Alicia and Elena Flink, Brad Flink, Joe Gottlob, Sarah Mancilla, Rachel, Summer, Oliver and Miles Taha.

Given by Pat and Irene McLaughlin in thanksgiving for P.J. and Anna McLaughlin, Erica, Avery and Jackson Brix.

Given by Bill and Verla Moyer in thanksgiving for our marriage and our family.

Given by Nancy Weiss-Hayes in thanksgiving for our grandchildren: Aidan, Annie, Gavin, Eleanor, and Jackson.

In Memory

Given by Elizabeth Bumbacher in memory of Steve Bumbacher.

Given by Alberto Caballero in memory of departed loved ones and friends.

Given by Scott and Meg Dorris in memory of Bill and Gay Bryant, John Bryant, Gerald Dorris and Rt. Rev. Roger White.

Given by The Rev. Garron Daniels and Nathalia Baum in memory of The Daniels and Baum Families.

Given by Ron & Jean Downey in memory of Irene and Wilson Meyer, and Bill, Sue and Dennis Downey.

Given by Karen Eagleton in memory of Bill and Suzy Eagleton.

Given by Rosalie Elkins in memory of Alvin Elkins.

Given by David and Nancy Elson in memory of Benjamin Elson (1975-2005).

Given by Donna Fisher in memory of all of my loved ones who have gone before me.

Given by Jack and Sandy Gottlob in memory of Stan and Barb Lagemann, Olin and Beulah Lagemann, Alex and Reba McGuiggan, Mary Volma, Myrnelle Singh, Sharon Tripp, Betty Cox, John H. and Mary Gottlob and Dan Gottlob.

Given by Tom Harris and Ann and Andy Bowen in memory of Wiley and Bette Harris.

Given by Marti LoRusso in memory of Emma and Emmet Haley, Robert and Mary Haley, Bruce Haley, Mike Haley, Ken Anderson, John Silgalis, Tom LoRusso, Gary Napp, Donna Taylor and Judy Elliott.

Given by Pat and Irene McLaughlin in memory of Clifton and Anna Beach.

Given by Carol Okamoto in memory of Rod and Joan Derricott.

Trinity Chapel

In Thanks

Given by Jeff and Linda Dunnagan in thanksgiving for family and friends.

In Memory

Given by The Rev. Garron Daniels and Nathalia Baum in memory of The Daniels and Baum Families.

Given by Jeff and Linda Dunnagan in memory of Ernest Dunnagan, Lynn and Letha France, Harold and Adele Schenk and Taylor Jones.