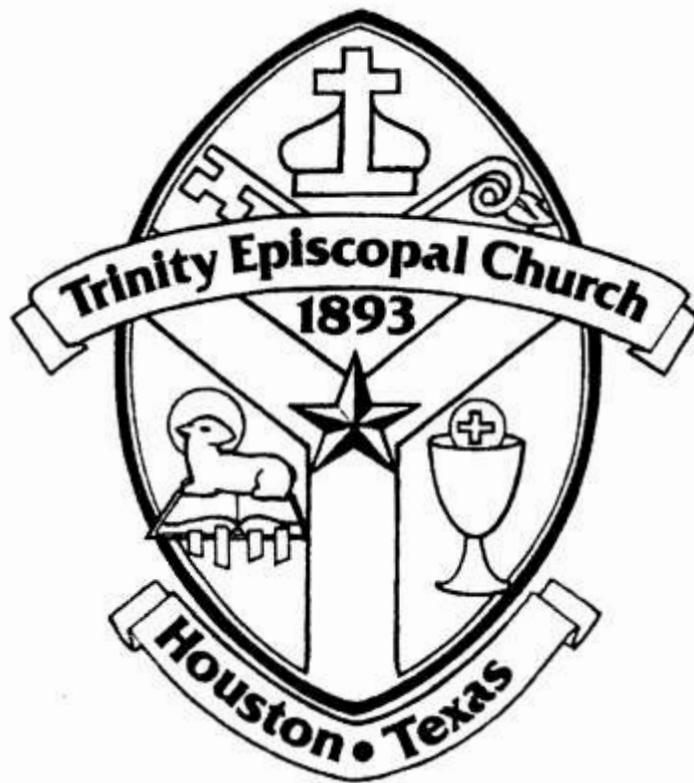


THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

MORNING PRAYER, Rite II

APRIL 26, 2020

10:30 a.m.



The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector
The Reverend Canon Dr. Henry L. Atkins, Jr., Theologian in Residence

Collin Boothby, Organist and Choirmaster
April Sloan-Hubert, Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble

Making God's Presence Real
By Sharing Christ's Life-Changing Love

MORNING PRAYER RITE II
10:30 a.m. Historic Church

VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on "Abide with Me"

William Bolcom

WELCOME

THE OPENING SENTENCE

BCP, page 76

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN 493

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Azmon

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heav'n.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

BCP, page 80

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

Pascha nostrum

BCP, page 83

Read in unison.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast.

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

PSALM 116:1-3, 10-17

Dilexi, quoniam

BCP, page 759

Alternately by whole verse.

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

People Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF MARY

Magnificat
Read in unison.

BCP, page 91

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

YOU ARE GOD

Te Deum laudamus
Read in unison.

BCP, page 95

You are God: we praise you;
 You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
 You are the eternal Father:
 All creation worships you.
 To you and all angels, all the powers of heaven,
 Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 The glorious company of apostles praise you.
 The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
 The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
 Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;
 Father, of majesty unbounded,
 Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
 and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
 the eternal Son of the Father.
 When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
 You overcame the sting of death
 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
 We believe that you will come and be our judge.
 Come then, Lord, and help your people,
 bought with the price of your own blood,
 and bring us with your saints
 to glory everlasting.

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Officiant The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

BCP, page 96

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, page 97

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.
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 SUFFRAGES

BCP, page 97

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People And grant us your salvation.
Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
People Let your people sing with joy.
Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People For only in you can we live in safety.
Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;
People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;
People Your saving health among all nations.
Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP, page 224

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

BCP, page 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR GRACE

BCP, page 100

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST COLLECT FOR MISSION

BCP, page 100

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

1. My faith looks up to thee, Thou lamb of
 2. May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a -
 4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold,

1. Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine!
 2. faint - ing heart, My zeal in - spire;
 3. round me spread, Be thou my guide;
 4. sul - len stream Shall o'er me roll;

1. Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt a - way;
 2. As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
 3. Bid dark - ness turn to - day, Wipe sor - row's tears a - way;
 4. Blest Sav - ior, then in love, Fear and dis - trust re - move,

1. O let me from this day Be whol - ly thine.
 2. Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire.
 3. Not let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
 4. O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

Give wisdom to those who have responsibility and authority in every land, that we may share with justice the resources of the world, and work together in trust.

Let us pray for the Church and its mission.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Most Reverend Michael Lewis and the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer for Palmer Memorial, Houston; Redeemer, Houston; and San Pablo/St. Paul's, San Pedro/St. Peter's, Pasadena; St. Alban's, Houston; and St. James', Houston.

In the ministry cycle of prayer for Sylvia Drew, Tony Huffman, and the Garden Club Ministry.

We pray for our bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Hector, Jeff and Kai, our Bishops; for Hannah and Henry our clergy.

We commend to your keeping ourselves and each other, our families, those with whom we work and learn, our neighbors and our friends.

Comfort and heal, we pray, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble, especially for those we now name: Vivian, Myron, Theresa, Thurman, Jeannette, Alfredo, Stewart, Jacqueline, Nathan, and all affected by the coronavirus.

Let us give thanks for the faithful departed, especially Neal Garner, and all who have perished by contracting the coronavirus. Grant that we, with all your saints, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfillment of your kingdom.

We give you thanks for your servants in every age, especially for these who are celebrating their birthdays: Sheila, Tim, Stephanie, and Paul.

O God, we who come before you this day are many and diverse, with different needs and desires.

We ask you to accept our thanksgivings, to guide our ways, and to receive our praise. O God, hear the prayers of your people.

Officiant

Facing the coronavirus, we pray
for all who mourn their dead
for the thousands who have contracted the virus
for all who are quarantined
for those who are stranded away from home

for those who have lost their employment
for those who fear the present and the future
for children who cannot assemble for school
For teachers dedicated to new ways of teaching
for parents with needs for child care
for physicians, nurses, and home health aides
for hospitals and clinics
for volunteers who are serving their communities
for medical researchers
for the World Health Organization
for adequate and wise governmental policies. . .

In your mercy, benevolent God
People Hear our prayer.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP, page 102

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.



1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Cleansed by the
 2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Dead in the
 3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Marked with the



1. blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion,
 2. tomb with Christ our King: One with his ris - ing,
 3. sign of Christ our King: Born of one Fa - ther,



1. trust - ing his prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 2. freed and for - giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 3. we are his child - ren, Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

DISMISSAL

BCP, page 102

Officiant Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532

Johann Sebastian Bach

We Are Trinity - We Love Trinity!

There are many ways to demonstrate our love for Trinity! One way is to make a financial commitment in the form of a completed pledge card. All who do so will receive a beautiful "I Heart Trinity" lapel pin. Remember, no pledge is too small in answering God's call to give!



There are several payment options for recurring and other pledges, focused giving, honorary gifts, memorials, etc. For assistance and questions please contact the Trinity Finance Office at finance@trinitymidtown.org or call 713.528.4100.

Credit Card. The Finance office can set up a system so your pledge will be charged to your VI-SA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express card.

Automatic Deductions. You may set up automatic deductions from a checking or savings account through your own bill pay system or give online through AccessACS. For more information about ACS please go to the Trinity homepage (trinitymidtown.org) and click on the Give tab at the top right, or contact the Finance Office.

Cash or Check. Cash or check pledges and other gifts of treasure may be placed in the offering plate. Please enclose in an envelope (your own, those provided in the pews, or request personalized member envelopes in advance). To receive credit for cash donations please write your name on the envelope. Checks and money orders may also be mailed to Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman Street, Houston, TX 77004.

Texting. (NEW!) Send the message **heartofmidtown** to 73256. The prompt will ask for a credit card number which can be kept on file for future contributions.

Contributions to Trinity are deductible under the new tax laws. For more information please contact your tax professional or financial institution.



THE WEEKLY WINDOW

of TRINITY *The Heart of Midtown*

April 26, 2020

The Third Sunday of Easter —Year A

Church Restoration Progress

The church exterior restoration has continued without interruption during the current COVID-19 crisis. The bell tower is the final area remaining in this project. Work is expected to be completed by the end of May.



This Week at Trinity Virtual Services

Sunday, April 26, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study (via Zoom)
- 9:30 a.m. Parenting with Grace (via Zoom)
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Prayer service (go to Facebook.com/trinitychurchhouston)
- 11:45 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour (on Facebook following 10:30 service)
- 12:45 pm—Conference Call to members of weekly 12:30 Jazz Service

Monday, April 27, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. Daily Prayer e-mail
- 3:00 p.m. Rector’s message on Facebook
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer on Facebook

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. Daily Prayer e-mail
- 10:00 a.m. Yoga with Saba (via Zoom)
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer on Facebook

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. Daily Prayer e-mail
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer on Facebook
- 7:00 p.m. Pub Theology (via Zoom)

Thursday, April 30, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. Daily Prayer e-mail
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer on Facebook

Friday, May 1, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. Daily Prayer e-mail
- 10:00 a.m. Yoga with Saba (via Zoom)
- 12:00 p.m. Inner City Podcast
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer on Facebook



Saturday, May 2, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. Daily Prayer e-mail

Daily Scripture and Prayer from the Rector

(if you are not receiving this e-mail, contact connections@trinitymidtown.org)

Pub Theology via Zoom

Contact frontoffice@trinitymidtown.org for link

Inner City Spirit Podcast

at TrinityMidtown.org, click Sermons page or on iTunes, access by clicking on “Trinity Episcopal Church Sermons”

Stay connected to Trinity with these services and so much more anytime on:



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchhouston>

and www.trinitymidtown.org

Trinity continues its commitment to feed the homeless—

Trinity staff will continue distributing sack meals each weeknight at 5:30 pm.

(Individuals shown in photo have granted permission for use of their likeness. Photo: Hannah Atkins Romero)

Trinity is ‘Beating Strong’ for YOU



Prayers

Our custom is to read aloud each week the names of those who are at a turning point and request our prayers. We also remember in our Prayer Chain and Bulletin those who desire ongoing prayers. Please use the pew cards or email to keep us informed. For information or comments about prayer names, please contact the Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero, rector@trinitymidtown.org. If you would like to participate as a member of the prayer chain, please contact Norma Cooper at normajcoop@aol.com.

Bob, Myron, Marvin, Larry, Caroline, Neil, Allegra, Garrett, Jummie, JaNelle, Louis, Godfrey, Tom, Jill, Leslie, Stephen, Rick, Larry, Christopher, Barbara, Van, Aisova, Karz, Sterling, Sandi Lee, Emity, Marcus, Anita, Danny, Steve, Inez, Margaret, Barbara, Letta, Lincoln, Penn, Norman, Richard, Jim, Phil, Judy, Vivian, Chariss, Theresa, Thurman, Jannette, Alfredo, Stewart, Jacqueline, Nathan, victims of violence, all affected by the coronavirus

For those in our armed services:
Will Dahlstrom, Martin Cabello and Christopher Krensnow

For the faithful departed:
Neal Garner, all who have perished by contracting the coronavirus

Happy Birthday!

Sheila Wainwright
Tim Lawson
Stephanie Weir
Paul Bower



Trinity Episcopal Church
1015 Holman@Main
713-528-4100



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Larry Laubach, Treasurer
finance@trinitymidtown.org

Trinity Vestry
Amy Luke, Senior Warden
John Escoto, Junior Warden
Shelby Bradley, Jim Castro, John Cloud,
Norma Cooper, Terri DiRaddo,
Andy Durham, Debbie Owens,
Carl Thompson, David Theis, Libby Tsubai

Follow us on:

Instagram
<http://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown>

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchhouston>

Bulletin for Sun., April 26th

The bulletin for Sunday's 10:30 am virtual service may be found posted on the Trinity website at www.trinitymidtown.org

Go to **Worship**, then click **Bulletins**

Music for Sun, April 26th

Opening Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on "Abide with Me", William Bolcom

First hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, #493

Sequence hymn: Abide with Me, #662

Offertory: My Faith Looks Up to Thee April Sloan-Hubert, soloist

Closing Hymn: Baptized in Water, LEVAS 121

Closing Voluntary: Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532, J.S. Bach



We Are Trinity - We Love Trinity!

Here is a new and easy way to give! TEXT the message heartofmidtown to 73256. The prompt will ask for a credit card number which can be kept on file for future contributions.

For assistance and/or questions please contact the Trinity Finance Office at finance@trinitymidtown.org or call (713) 528-4100.



The Emergency Aid Coalition needs our help!



Fruit still urgently needed!

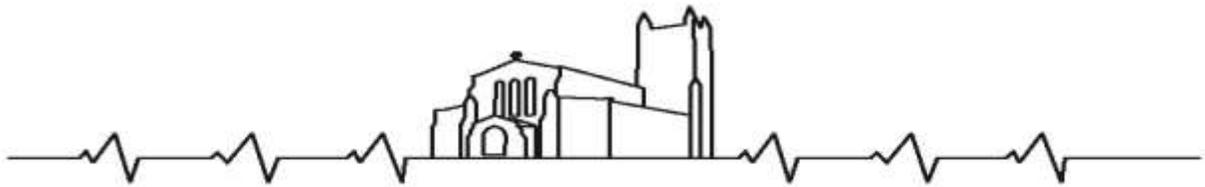
If any parishioners are able to find extra fruit or canned goods and are willing to bring it to the EAC Food Pantry, please contact Marian Bryant at 832-859-1065 or Lydia Smyth at 713-240-9992. They depend on their member congregations to support them as they support the community. Thank you for helping feed our vulnerable and valuable friends in need.

This Sunday's Readings



Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Trinity is 'Beating Strong' for YOU



The Heart of Midtown

Why is there no General Confession in Easter?
Explanation by St. George's Church in Ontario, Canada

You may have noticed that the Confession – the part of the service where we collectively acknowledge that we make mistakes, that we hurt others, that we carry around guilt and doubt and regret, and then we receive God's forgiveness and assurance of healing – is absent during the Easter season. For some, this will feel like a major omission. Human beings are adept at weighing down our lives with feelings of powerlessness and inadequacy, anxiety for our shortcomings, gaping wounds of anger and hurt for how our relationships have been broken. This time in our worship to take stock, to lay down those burdens before God and to be reminded of God's faithfulness to, and love for, us can help many to feel lighter, freer, refreshed.

However, it is the tradition of the ancient church that the Confession is omitted during the season of Easter. It is not that Christians miraculously become perfect people during the seven weeks of Easter and therefore have no need of repentance and absolution. Instead, it is perhaps more appropriate to think of Easter as a rehearsal, a practicing of what a right relationship with God and one another actually looks like.

Whereas Lent is a time for honest and probing self-reflection, intentionality and care in how we use our time and resources, sparseness and restraint, Easter is a time for celebration, celebration of the fullness of God's kingdom, of a reality in which each of us lives in the light and love of God and reflects that light and love in our relationships with one another. In the fullness of God's Kingdom, we are free from the past brokenness and pain of our lives and our relationships are whole and life-giving. In the fullness of God's Kingdom, talk of sin and forgiveness no longer have a place, because we are healed.

We are not there yet. Brokenness and fragility are part of our story. We still look forward to the time when the promises of new life and healing offered on that first Easter morning will be fully realized. And some of us might continue to bring heavy hearts to worship through Easter. Individuals are encouraged to offer before God in prayer any confessions, any needs, any worries, regardless of whether it is Easter or not. However, our *collective* prayer changes at Easter in order that we might, as a community, tell this part of our story: *Christ is risen!* And we have glimpsed the Kingdom of God, where every tear is wiped away, where all hearts are mended, where we join with all of creation in receiving and sharing the good gifts God gives us.

A HISTORY OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Episcopal Church of Houston has existed as a house of worship and a center of its community for over a century. As such, it has adapted to the changing nature of the city, as Houston grew from a regional town of approximately 40,000 souls to a dynamic metropolitan giant, the fourth largest city in the United States. With a congregation that grew from a few founding members in the 1890s to several thousand parishioners at its peak, Trinity Church is an example of how spiritual people have contended with the challenges presented during a city's most crucial period of urban development.

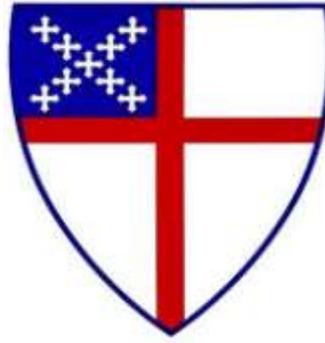
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street and Holman Avenue. That structure, designed by Ralph Adams Cram of Boston and William Ward Watkin of Houston became an architectural landmark constructed in the neo-Gothic style with Texas limestone and a 97 foot bell tower.

During the late 1910s and 1920s, Trinity entered an era of explosive growth, paralleling that of the city, and became an important center of the Episcopal faith. The congregation's many youth and adult activities were community events that attracted wide attention among the general populace. An integral part of its city, Trinity likewise maintained special relationships with Houstonians of other faiths. With a membership numbering 1,900 parishioners in 1930, Trinity emerged as the largest Episcopal parish in the Diocese of Texas and one of the largest in the nation.

After World War II, Houston's growth presented Trinity with perhaps its greatest challenge. As the city physically expanded into the new postwar suburbs, Trinity's membership began to decline. Rather than abandon its historic location, the congregation showed itself to be steadfast. Resurrecting itself from this period, Trinity reaffirmed its mission, this time as a beacon in the inner city where it has become a leading institution in the heart of Houston, determined to enhance the quality of urban life for everyone.

While our neighborhood has gone through many changes, the parish has remained steadfast, and actively ministers to a diverse congregation and to the poor in its midst. As the Midtown Houston neighborhood began redeveloping, starting in the early 2000s, Trinity Church has rededicated itself to its spiritual mission, and has become an active part of the Midtown area for music and other creative art expressions.





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