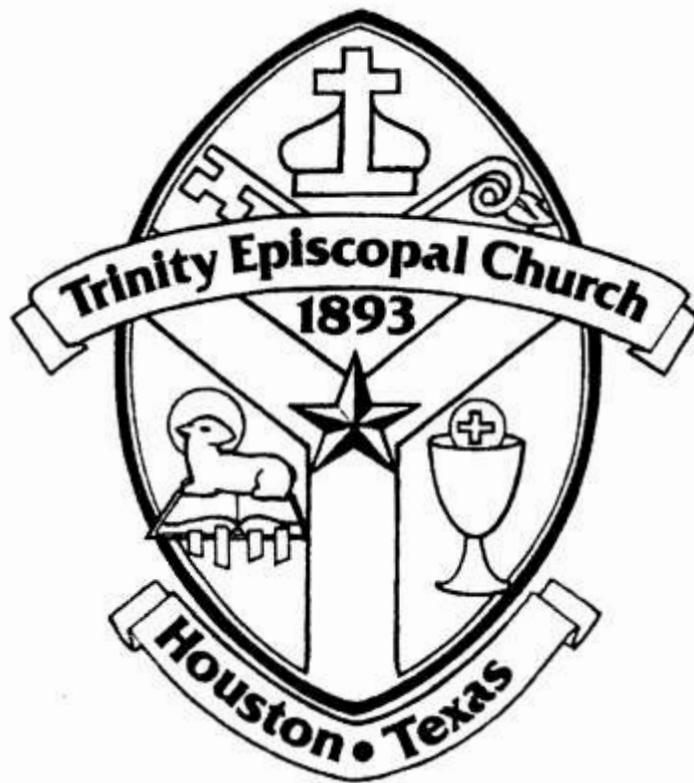


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MORNING PRAYER, Rite II

MAY 3, 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

Psalm Prelude, Set 1, Op. 32: No. 3
Psalm 23: 4

Herbert Howells

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; *
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

WELCOME

THE OPENING SENTENCE

BCP, page 76

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN

Draw us in the Spirit's tether

Union Seminary

1. Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, For when
2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er In the
3. All our meals and all our liv - ing Make as

hum - bly in your name, Two or
name of Christ to sup, Then with
sac - ra - ments of you, That by

three are met to - geth - er, You are in the
thanks to God the Fa - ther Break the bread and
car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing, We may be dis -

midst of them; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
So now bind our friend - ship up.
We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt., © Oxford University Press
Tune: UNION SEMINARY, 8 7 8 7 44 7; Harold Friedell, 1905-1958, © 1957, H. W. Gray Co., Inc.; harm. by Jet Turner, 1928-1984

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.

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

PSALM 23

Dominus meus pastor est

Bobby McFerrin

April Sloan-Hubert, soloist

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need
She makes me lie down in green meadows
Beside the still waters, She will lead

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs
She leads me in a path of good things
And fills my heart with songs

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land
There is nothing that can shake me
She has said She won't forsake me
I'm in her hand

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes
She anoints my head with oil
And my cup overflows

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me
All the days of my life
And I will live in her house
Forever, forever and ever

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter
And to the Holy of Holies
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World, without end. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 2: 42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2: 19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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.

THE THIRD LESSON

John 10: 1-10

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Officiant The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

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 225

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and 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.

VIRTUAL OFFERING

Automatic Deductions. You may 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.

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=156477>

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



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
 * 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-les-tial feed-eth.
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

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 Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu and the Anglican Communion in Japan.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer for St. Luke the Evangelist, Houston; St. Mark's, Houston; Trinity, Baytown; and Trinity, Houston.

In the ministry cycle of prayer for Sarah Flick and the Women's Circle.

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, Jeannette, Alfredo, Stewart, Jacqueline, Nathan, and all affected by the coronavirus.

Let us give thanks for the faithful departed, especially Emmanuel Jordan, Florence Wakefield Gilkes, 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: Jacob, Rob, Saba, Shelby, Mary Ann, and Armando.

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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Savior, like a shepherd lead us

Bradbury

1 Sav - ior, like a Shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;
 2 We are thine, do thou be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare:
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray:
 thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill:

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

WORDS: Attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847); *Hymns for the Young*, 1836
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

BRADBURY
8.7.8.7.D.

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 you all evermore. Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Sonata in G Major, Op. 28
I. Allegro maestoso

Edward Elgar

Please join us for a virtual Coffee Hour on Facebook immediately following the service, ending at 12 noon.

MEET LUZ MONTES

TRINITY'S NEW CURATE



Luz Montes is a Candidate for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and a student at Seminary of the Southwest. She will graduate this May and will be ordained on June 27, 2020. She was born and raised in Houston and was an elementary school teacher prior to attending seminary. During her time in Houston, she was a lay minister at Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo for over ten years. Luz serves the church in other capacities such as a member of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons and is on the Task Force to Coordinate Ecumenical & Interreligious Work. She is also a Youth Ministry Liaison for The Episcopal Church Office of Youth Ministries.

Luz is currently living in Austin with her husband, Thanh Montes, and is looking forward to moving back to Houston and joining Trinity Episcopal Church this Summer.

Beloved Community,

In this time of uncertainty Trinity - the Heart of Midtown - is 'beating strong' for you!

We are maintaining staff and resources (in compliance with current COVID-19 guidelines and orders) to fulfill two priorities:

1. Provide on-going worship and connection via:
 - Telephone check-ins with parishioners from clergy, pastoral care team, and vestry
 - Live streaming services from our historic sanctuary every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
 - Live streaming Evening Prayer every weekday at 5:30 p.m.
 - Daily e-mails containing scripture verse and prayer from the Book of Common Prayer
 - Weekly podcasts ("Inner City Spirit") and video messages
 - Virtual Pub Theology gatherings every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.
 - Virtual access to programs such as Parenting with Grace and Ashes of the Phoenix
 - Pastoral care by telephone, teleconferencing, or in person (with appropriate social distancing)

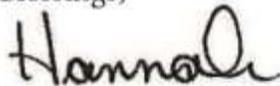
2. Continue to feed the hungry. Trinity has set up a process to safely distribute sandwiches and bottled water to our homeless community.

Services, virtual ministries, and other resources can be accessed through Trinity's website (trinitymidtown.org) and Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to access the livestream (www.facebook.com/trinitychurchhouston). If you need assistance please call 713.528.4100.

If you need pastoral care or counseling please call 713.447.9995 or e-mail rector@trinitymidtown.org.

You mean so much to the Trinity family - you are in our prayers, and in our hearts!

Blessings,



The Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero



Some have asked what the Emergency Aid Coalition is doing during the coronavirus crisis. They are open for business, M-F, and the need has increased greatly. Their sack lunch program has grown from hundreds to thousands per week. They also give emergency and monthly groceries to clients, and help refer them to other agencies. They deliver monthly groceries to elderly shut-ins. They've been managing with their small staff, and discouraging too many volunteers to allow people to stay home and be safe. Their clothing center is temporarily closed to focus on feeding folks.

If anyone would like to make a small monetary donation, in lieu of the usual Sunday canned goods, please visit www.eachouston.org or email info@eachouston.org. They are also trying to provide fruit with the sack lunches. If anyone is able to bring fruit (bags of apples or oranges, for example, or packaged fruit cups), please contact them for donation information.

Thanks for all you do to help support this lifeline in the community.



THE WEEKLY WINDOW

of TRINITY *The Heart of Midtown*

May 3, 2020

The Fourth 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, May 3, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study (via Zoom)
- 9:30 a.m. Parenting with Grace (via Zoom)
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Meditations (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, May 4, 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, May 5, 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, May 6, 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, May 7, 2020

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

Friday, May 8, 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
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Group (via Zoom)
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer on Facebook

Saturday, May 9, 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, Caroline, Allegra, Gareth, Jimmie, Tom, Jill, Stephen, Christopher, Barbara, Anna, Kazi, Emily, Anita, Margaret, Barbara, Penn, Norman, Vivian, Theresa, Jeannette, Alfredo, Stewart, Jacqueline, Nathan, victims of violence, all affected by the coronavirus

For those in our armed services:
Will Dahlstrom, Martin Cabelo and Christopher Krenshaw

For the faithful departed:
Emanuel Jordan, Florence Wakefield Gilkes, all who have perished by contracting the coronavirus

Happy Birthday!

- Jacob Davidson
- Armando Gonzalez
- Rob Christie
- Saba Blanding
- Shelby Bradley
- Mary Ann Whisenhunt



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



Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector
rector@trinitymidtown.org

Rev. Dr. Henry Atkins,
Theologian in Residence
hleeatkins@aol.com

Tony Sessions, Administrative Assistant
frontoffice@trinitymidtown.org

Collin Boothby,
Organist and Choirmaster,
Associate for Connections Ministry
music@trinitymidtown.org
connections@trinitymidtown.org

Fabian Berrios, Youth Missioner
youth@trinitymidtown.org

Pat Laubach, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@trinitymidtown.org

Carol Turley, Membership Secretary
membership@trinitymidtown.org

Larry Laubach, Treasurer
finance@trinitymidtown.org

Trinity Vestry
Amy Luke, Senior Warden
John Escoto, Junior Warden
Shelby Bradley, Jim Castro, John Cloud,
Norma Cooper, Teri 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., May 3rd

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**

Sunday Meditations

Please join us for

Sunday Meditations

as we strive to deepen our relationships with God and one another.

Sundays 9:30am - 10:15am

via Zoom



If you are interested in attending, or have any questions or comments, please contact:

frontoffice@trinitymidtown.org

or Mary Matteucci

mwmatteucci@gmail.com

Come journey with us!

We Are Trinity - We Love Trinity!

Here is a new and easy way to give! TEXT the message [heartofmidtown](text: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



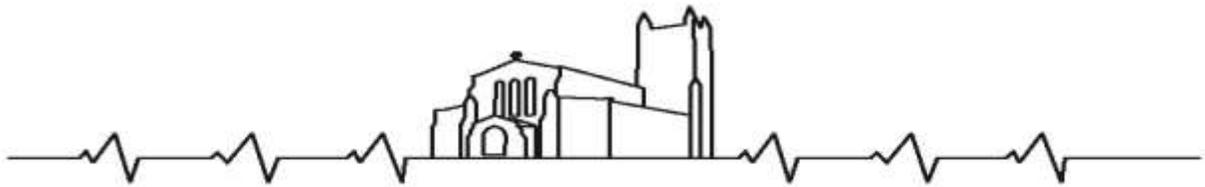
Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

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.

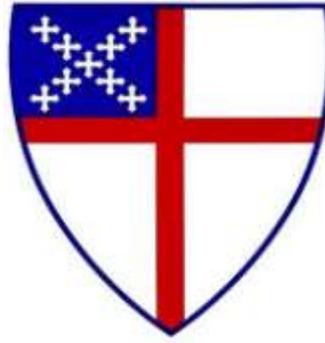
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street 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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