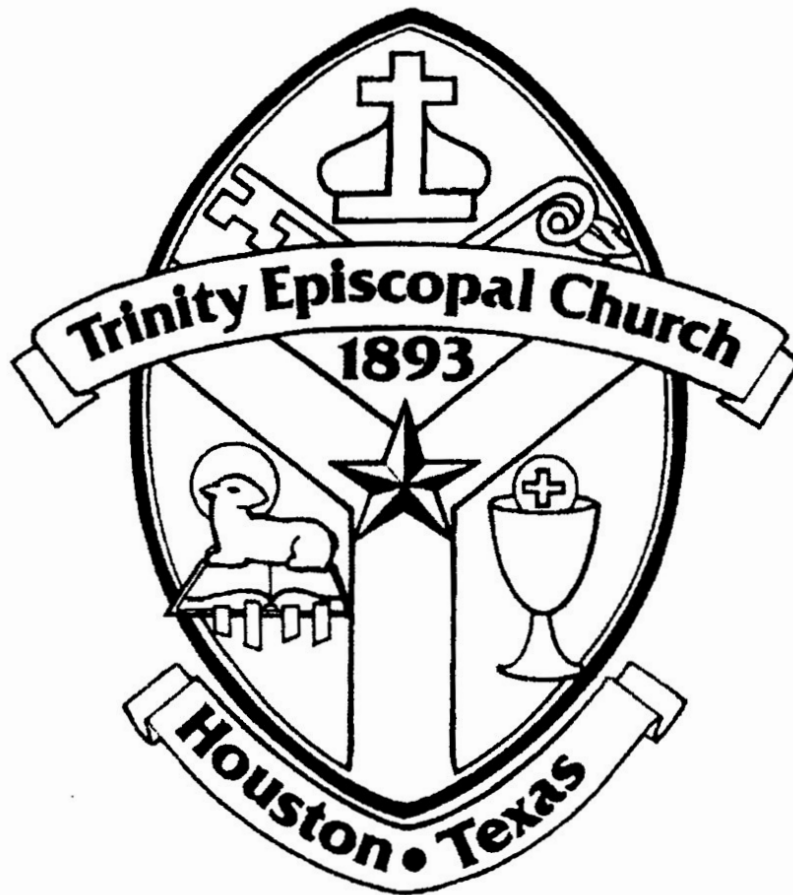


# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024  
8:00 a.m.



The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector  
The Reverend Dale Klitzke, Priest Associate

Wendy Wentland, Pianist

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

## WELCOME TO TRINITY CHURCH

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church! We're glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We follow the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) to guide our worship. In this leaflet, you'll find everything you need to follow along printed.

Whether you've been attending Trinity your whole life or this is your first time here, we invite you to participate in the service as fully as you feel comfortable doing.

If you're looking for a new church home, know that the Trinity family welcomes you. We would also appreciate your filling out a virtual visitors card, which can be accessed at this link:

<https://www.trinitymidtown.org/contact-card-page/>

For more information, please visit our website:

[www.trinitymidtown.org](http://www.trinitymidtown.org)

For questions about how to connect with us, please email  
[connections@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:connections@trinitymidtown.org)

### A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- Your children are welcome here at Trinity! First, please relax and enjoy your time here. We know that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it.
- To make things easier for your family, dare to sit closer to the front where your child can see what's going on at the altar. Guide them in the liturgy and be models for them. Help them sing the hymns and encourage them to stand/sit when appropriate, say "Amen" and "Thanks be to God," and generally help them be a part of the service. The liturgy belongs to them too.
- If you have to leave, hurry back! Jesus wants the children here, and we do too. If you need help, just ask. There are many here who are willing to lend you a hand.

### VESTRY

Andy Durham, *Senior Warden*

Eric Beam, *Junior Warden*

Brent Chambers

Tony Huffman

Pam Lawson

Mary Matteucci

John Merullo

Samantha Rainman

Jeanne Sommerfeld

Andréa Shiloh

Gladys Vallés

David Villarreal

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Teddy Adams, *Chancellor*

Dana Gannon, *Assistant Chancellor*

Larry Laubach, *Treasurer*

Steve Lee, *Assistant Treasurer*

Ben Blanding, *Clerk of the Vestry*

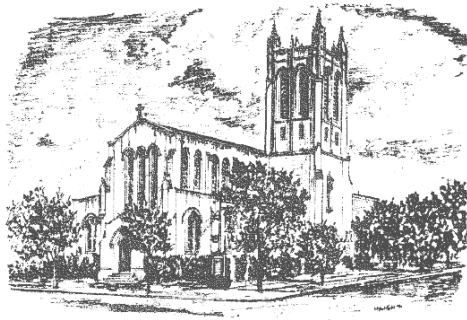
Samantha Rainman, *Assistant Clerk of the Vestry*

## SERVING TODAY

Lector: Samantha Rainman  
LEM: Donald Hackler  
Music: Wendy Wentland, piano  
Vestry of the Day: Tony Huffman

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God  
and in memory of Stephen Wentland  
by Wendy Wentland

The Baptistry flowers and the flowers in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity  
are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration  
of Ranji and Stephen Bercegeay-Zwahr's  
Second Wedding Anniversary by  
Ranji and Stephen Bercegeay-Zwahr



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Youtube  
<https://www.youtube.com/trinityepiscopalchurch>



# HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please stand as able.*

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, page 323

*Officiant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Officiant* 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.

**People** **Amen.**

### THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

BCP, page 324

*Officiant* 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.

### CANTICLE

*Gloria in excelsis*

*Read in unison.*

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,**

**O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And with thy spirit.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People** **Amen.**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

**People**     **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22: 24-30

*Deus, Deus meus*  
*Alternately by whole verse.*

BCP, page 612

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*

he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \*

they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*

the saving deeds that he has done.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15: 1-8

*Officiant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People** **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*Officiant* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Wendy Wentland, piano

*Please stand as able.*

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, page 326

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP, page 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever-living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai (*pronounced "Kaye"*), and Hector, our Bishops; for Hannah, and Dale our clergy, and for all who minister in this place, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Let us pray for the Church and its mission. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for [the Most Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin, and the Church of Bangladesh](#). In the diocesan cycle of prayer for [All Saints', Fort Worth](#); [All Souls, Arlington](#); and [Faith, Wichita Falls](#). In the ministry cycle of prayer for [John Merullo, George Zemanek, and the Taste of Trinity](#).

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph our president, Kamala, our vice-president, Greg our governor, Lina, our county judge, John our mayor, and the legislatures and courts, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor , [Bill, Nick, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Monica, Daniel, Angela, Velma, Brian, Norma, Diane](#), and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Almighty God, thou lovest all thy children and art a home to those who are in any need or trouble; inspire thy Church with the Spirit of Christ's love, empower us to battle the root causes of homelessness, and help us to live as one with one another.

We offer you, O Lord, our prayers of thanksgiving, [especially for Tim, Stephanie, Paul, Randy, Jacob, Kathryn, and Saba](#) as they celebrate their birthdays.

And we also bless thy Holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, [especially for Dorothy Church, Cindy Brimberry, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, and all victims of gun violence](#), beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.  
**Amen.**

*The Celebrant prays the following Collect:*

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

*Celebrant*      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

*Please see our complete announcements and the Weekly Window at the back of this bulletin.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Please be seated*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERING

**Online Giving** is available.

Go to [www.trinitymidtown.org](http://www.trinitymidtown.org) and click the "Give" button on the top right, or click:

<https://onrealm.org/TrinityMidtown/-/form/give/now>

**Texting.** Send the message **heartofmidtown** to **73256**. Be sure to type heartofmidtown with no spaces, or autocorrect may insert information about a different church. The prompt will ask for a credit card number which can be kept on file for future contributions.

VERSE AND RESPONSE AT PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

*Celebrant*      All things come of thee, O Lord  
**People**        **and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**



*Please stand as able.*

## SURSUM CORDA

*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.***Celebrant* 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

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

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

**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 celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies.

Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

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

**People**      **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, page 336

**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.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

BCP, page 338

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*Please come forward to receive communion from a priest in front of the altar. If you wish to partake of the chalice, you may do so by intinction. Intinction is done by dipping a host into the wine, and is completely optional. If you prefer, it is perfectly fine to continue receiving the host only. If you are unable to come forward for communion, it will be brought to you in your pew.*



*We offer a gluten-free bread option for those with dietary restrictions who wish to receive communion. To receive a gluten free wafer, please clasp your hands with palms facing each other when the priest administering the bread approaches you.*

**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 Savior 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 has 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.**

## BLESSING

*The priest blesses the people, saying*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

**Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

**Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life, be with you always.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*Officiant*  
*People*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.*

*Flower dedication dates are available for May 5 and May 12..*

*Please sign up to donate on our website.*

*We would like to thank Ranji and Stephen Bercegeay-Zwahr  
for hosting this morning's coffee hour.*

*Please note that May 5 and 12 are available to host (part/all) coffee hour.*

*To sign up, please scan the QR code below or contact Jamie Chambers:  
[jamielynnchambers@hotmail.com](mailto:jamielynnchambers@hotmail.com) or call/text at 832-370-7155  
if you need assistance.*

*Thank you*





# 2024 TRINITY JAZZ FESTIVAL

## JULY 18-21

Set your summer calendar to sizzle in July for a four-day weekend of smooth jazz, Latin jazz, and big-band jazz featuring the Sinatra-style crooner from New York, **Benny Benack III**.

After a four-year hiatus following Covid, Trinity's annual jazz festival is back and hotter than ever, moving from January to July 18-21.

The time change is not the only big news.

With a theme of "**Resurrection**," we have taken on the energy of the Phoenix rising from the ashes, and you will see our branding logo to that effect. This new energy allowed us to re-imagine and expand our venues, collaborate with broader communities, and express the power of the Beloved Community through music and connection.

Starting with our **Thursday night VIP dinner** once held in a hotel, under the magic hands of Bob Davenport, our Trinity fellowship hall will be transformed, featuring a Louisiana-style catered meal from the Ragin Cajun, a live band, and a silent auction. So put on your dancing shoes, get your grub on, and open your wallets to the silent auction featuring fantastic packages for your bidding.

We are collaborating with St. John's United Methodist Church Downtown to produce the Friday night concert featuring smooth jazz saxophonist **Kim Waters at the WeServ Theatre** inside the church at 2019 Crawford Street.

On Saturday afternoon, let your inner creativity loose and learn from the masters in masterclass jazz workshops at Trinity Midtown. The workshops are public and open to everyone.

Saturday night, prepare to be wowed by the magic fingers of trumpeter and velvet-voiced headliner Benny Benack III. But

not before Latin music local favorite Ermelinda Cuellar sets the stage with her sultry sounds.

On Sunday, our signature annual jazz Mass returns featuring the music of Count Basie under the musical direction of master trumpeter James Williams III and the spiritual leadership of our rector, the Rev. Hannah Elizabeth Atkins Romero.

Organizers and Trinity members leading the planning of this four-day festival are co-chairs Michele White and Ann McCoy.

Here are ways you can help: Of course, buy tickets. We have more than a dozen committee members for this massive undertaking and plenty of room for your help on committees such as fundraising and hospitality. Consider making donations for our silent auction or contacting your friends in business, entertainment, or service to donate packages for bidding, including timeshares, season tickets, artwork, massages, etc. If you have a business, consider buying an ad in our program guide featuring information on the four-day festival and the artists. For more information, contact **Theresa D. McClellan at 616-389-7142** or [Theresa@theresawriter.com](mailto:Theresa@theresawriter.com)





## THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MIDTOWN

April 28, 2024 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Trinity Episcopal Church | [www.trinitymidtown.org](http://www.trinitymidtown.org)  
1015 Holman @ Main | 713-528-4100

## Sunday In-Person Services

8:00 am and 12:30 pm (Chapel)  
10:30 am (Historic Church)

### Thy Kingdom Come – Ascension to Pentecost

Please join in praying with Christians throughout the world between the Feast of the Ascension (May 9th) and Pentecost (May 19th).

Thy Kingdom Come was begun in the Church of England in 2016, and has since spread to churches worldwide.

More information may be found in flyers at the church, on our website or at [thykingdomcome.global](http://thykingdomcome.global).

### Multilingual Pentecost Reading – May 19th

It is our custom on the Day of Pentecost to have the lesson from Acts where the Apostles are heard to be speaking in multiple languages to be read in many languages simultaneously.

If you can read in a language other than English and would like to participate, please let Pat Laubach know at [volunteer@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:volunteer@trinitymidtown.org). We can supply the text if you need it. We would like to have as many people participate as possible and welcome new readers.

### Choral Evensong for Trinity Sunday – May 26th

Celebrate our parish feast day with a special service of Choral Evensong, on Trinity Sunday, May 26th, at 5:30 p.m.

Organist/Choirmaster Alex Jones and the Trinity Choir will present this sung liturgy which will include works by Charles Villiers Stanford and Benjamin Britten.

### Trinity Jazz Festival Silent Auction–July 18th

Along with the return of the Trinity Jazz Festival (see flyer for more details), this year also brings the return of the Jazz Festival Silent Auction. Donations are needed for this important fund raiser.

Suggested donation items include gift certificates from restaurants or local businesses, gift baskets, theater, sport, or event tickets, timeshare/weekend getaway opportunities, etc.

Please contact Jonathan Goodsell at [jwgoodsell@gmail.com](mailto:jwgoodsell@gmail.com) for more information.

### Honoring Sam Jones

Our longtime security guard Sam Jones recently retired after over 30 years of service to Trinity. Donations to a purse in honor of his three decades as part of the Trinity community will be accepted through May and will be presented to him in June. Please contact Larry Laubach at [finance@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:finance@trinitymidtown.org) for more details.

### THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

#### Sunday, April 28th, 2024

7:30am – 1:30pm Nursery Open  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel)  
9:00 am Sunday Meditations (Zoom)  
9:30 am Education Hour  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church)  
11:45 am Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)  
12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (Chapel)  
1:45 pm Completas recording (Chapel)  
8:00 pm Completas (Facebook)

#### Monday, April 29th, 2024

5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

#### Tuesday, April 30th, 2024

12:00 pm The Listening Post  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

#### Wednesday, May 1st, 2024

10:30 am Staff Meeting (Smith)  
12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)  
6:00 pm Healing Service (Zoom)  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Room 218)  
7:00 pm Pub Theology (Mucky Duck)

#### Thursday, May 2nd, 2024

12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)  
6:30 pm Listening Hearts (Masterson)

#### Friday, May 3rd, 2024

10:00 am Garden Club (Fellowship Hall)  
12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

#### Saturday, May 4th, 2024

12:00 pm Eagle Scout Ceremony  
(Fellowship Hall)

Our Weekly Zoom links can be found at  
<https://www.trinitymidtown.org/zoom-withus>



### PRAYERS

Our custom is to read aloud each week the names of those who request our prayers. We also remember in our Prayer Chain and Bulletin those who desire prayers. Please email to keep us informed. For information or comments about prayer names, please contact the Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero. If you would like to participate as a member of the prayer chain, please contact Norma Cooper.

Bill, Nick, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Monica, Daniel, Angela, Velma, Brian, Norma, Diane  
Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Stephen, Emily, Van, Dick, Ric, Barbara, Sylvia, Joyce, Bob, David, Robert, Susan, Patty, Dana, Emilia, Gaby, Florence, Carolyn, Rick, Charles, Harrison, Kathy, Erma, Mary, Chris, Guillermo, Holly, Ray, Barbara, Howard, Claudie, Romy, Bryce, Rose, Bart, Marie, Josh, Christina, Collette, Sybil, Charlotte, Bob, Pamela, James, Jason, Meredith, Nikki, Anneliese, Ella, Julie, Leslie, All Victims of Violence

### For the faithful departed:

Cindy Brimberry, Dorothy Church, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine and all victims of gun violence.

### Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour

If you would like to make a flower dedication, you can sign up at [www.trinitymidtown.org/flower-ministry/](http://www.trinitymidtown.org/flower-ministry/).  
Next available dates: May 5th, 12th



Sign-ups for coffee hour hosts are available, please sign up online to volunteer [here](#) or scan QR code below. For questions or further information please contact Jamie Chambers: [jamielynnchambers@hotmail.com](mailto:jamielynnchambers@hotmail.com) or call/text at 832-370-7155 if you need assistance.



Next available dates: May 5th, 12th



**Tim Lawson, Stephanie Weir,  
Paul Bower, Randy Goswick,  
Jacob Davidson,  
Kathryn Laurance,  
Saba Blanding**

**The Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero,  
Rector**

[rector@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:rector@trinitymidtown.org)

**The Rev. Dale Klitzke, Priest Associate**

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**Alex Jones Organist/Choirmaster**

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**Carol Turley, Membership Secretary**

[membership@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:membership@trinitymidtown.org)

**Larry Laubach, Treasurer**

[finance@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:finance@trinitymidtown.org)

\*Please note we will never ask you for money or gifts via email. Scams are circulating again, so please be aware and cautious.

### Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 3 pm

Friday 9 am – 1 pm

If you have building concerns please email [parishadministrator@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:parishadministrator@trinitymidtown.org).



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@trinityepiscopalmidtown



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For more information on annual giving visit [www.trinitymidtown.org/give](http://www.trinitymidtown.org/give).







**April 28, 2024 – Easter 5 (B)**  
**Week 5: Reflections on the Resurrection**

*During the Easter season, Sermons That Work is pleased to present reflections from some of the newest bishops of The Episcopal Church on the resurrection of our Lord. Check back each week for a brief exploration of how Jesus Christ's rising from the grave changes everything. To listen to this reflection, scan the QR code on this page and subscribe to the Sermons That Work podcast.*

During Eastertide, we lift high the good news that God's saving work in human history has been accomplished solely through the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. We proclaim that in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting our trespasses against us, and that salvation is not earned by any human effort at all but received by faith in the finished work of Christ.

But let's be honest: Sometimes this all sounds too good to be true – a well-meaning sentiment, but not terribly helpful when confronted with day-to-day reality. In the face of darkness, despair and death, we need resurrection, not sentiment.

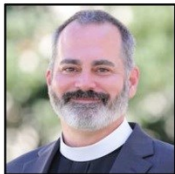
We know all too well that life is filled with suffering. Some of us feel paralyzing guilt and condemnation because of the sins we've committed. Some of us feel overwhelming shame because of the sins committed against us. Some of us feel despair because of the impulses and addictions that seem to have power over us. Some of us are shrouded in the darkness of depression. Some of us are suffocated by grief because death has taken a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.

Rather than minimize darkness, despair and death, Jesus experiences it and comforts us in it right now. The one who stepped out of the grave on Easter morning has the last word. We're comforted knowing that Jesus Christ, God himself, knows what it's like to suffer, and that his Resurrection is a guarantee of our future resurrection to eternal life. Because Jesus conquered death, we know that darkness is not the end of the story or the last word on us. The risen Christ says the last word on us is "hope."

The Bible teaches that our suffering is a place to experience God's sustaining grace in our weakness (2 Cor. 1:8-9, 12:9-10). Grief, Scripture clearly says, is a natural response when we experience loss, but it can be tempered by the good news of Christ's Resurrection. Because of his victory over death, all threats against us are tamed. He conquers all our enemies: Satan, sin, hell and the grave. The Resurrection not only readjusts our horizon, but it completely transforms our understanding of the future as well.

Where darkness, despair and death had reigned, Jesus breaks in with light, liberation and love. A picture of this comes from Robert Louis Stevenson, the author of "Treasure Island" who lived in Scotland in the 19th century. As a boy, he and his family lived on a hillside overlooking a small town. He was intrigued by the work of the old lamplighters, who went about with ladders and torches, lighting the streetlights for the night.

One evening, as Robert stood watching with fascination, his nurse asked him, "Robert, what in the world are you looking at out there?" With great excitement, he exclaimed, "Look at that man! He's punching holes in the darkness!" Jesus Christ, "the light of the world" (John 8:12), has entered our suffering to punch holes in the darkness and lead us into the dawn of his grace, love and eternal life. While it is true that in the midst of life, we are in death, what's more true is that, because of the Resurrection, in the midst of death, we are in life.



***The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb** is the bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida, a seminary professor, and an author or editor of more than twenty books on theology, abuse, and biblical studies. This reflection was adapted from [Bishop Holcomb's Easter sermon at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Orlando, March 31, 2024](#).*

**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.

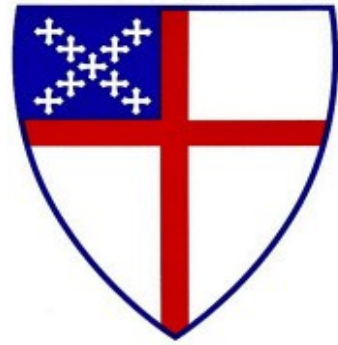
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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