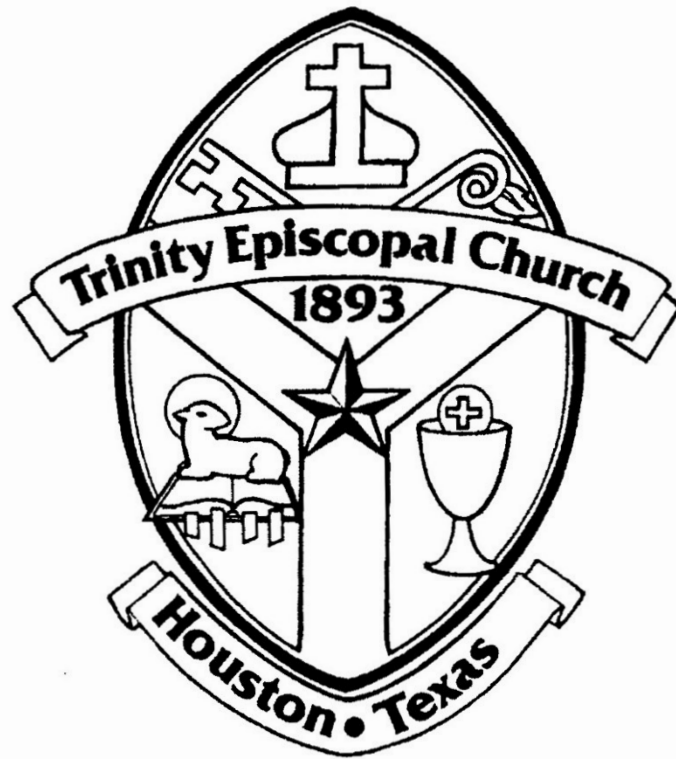


THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024
12:30 p.m.



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

April Sloan-Hubert, Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble
Pelayo Parlade, Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble

***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. We adapted the liturgy for this service from *A New Zealand Prayer Book* 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

For questions about how to connect with us, please email
connections@trinitymidtown.org

Facebook Live Stream. Please be advised that this service is live streamed through our Trinity Facebook Page and YouTube channels. By participating in the service, you are consenting to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your children who participate.

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.
- Children's activity and worship bulletins are available for download from our website under the "Worship—Bulletins" tab, or following this link:

<https://www.trinitymidtown.org/childrens-bulletins/>

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

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*

THE TRINITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Vocals: April Sloan-Hubert
Piano: Pelayo Parlade
Flute, Clarinet: Ernesto Vega
Bass: Alfred Kennedy

SERVING TODAY

Lector: Caroline Levander
Prayers: Abby Swearingen
Acolyte: Barrett Hess
Usher: Julie Morin
Audio Visual: Paul Bower
Online Greeter: Pam Lawson
Altar Guild: Linda Davenport
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



Follow us on:

Facebook

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

Instagram

<https://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown>

Youtube

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



The Liturgy of the Word

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Please stand as able.

Presider My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him; For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.

People **God is with us, here we find new life!**

Presider Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

I Come with Joy to Meet the Lord

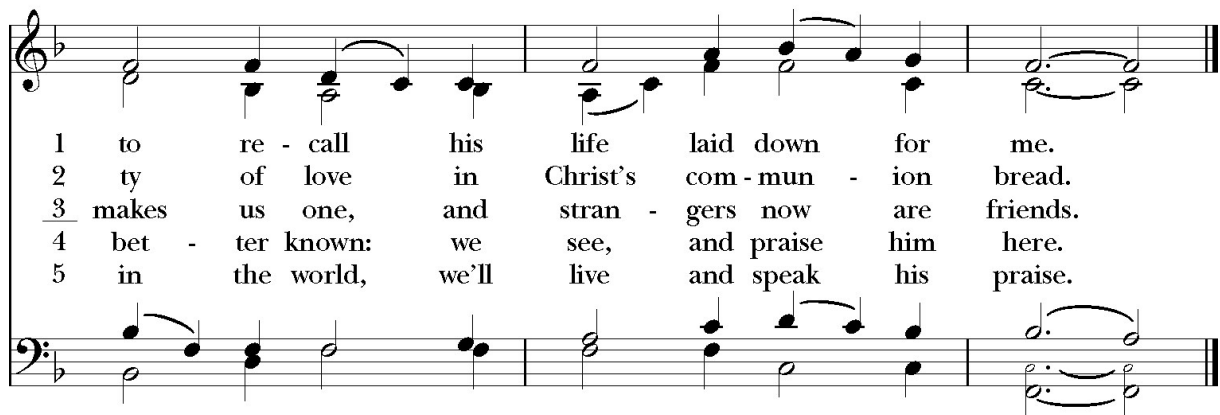
Unison or harmony



1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple



1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.
Christ of the new covenant, give us the happiness to share, with full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, all that you give us. Hear this prayer for your love's sake.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8: 26-40

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 4: 7-21

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.

(Continued on page 6)

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL *Please stand as able* John 15: 1-8

Presider The Holy Gospel according to John.
People Praise and glory to God!

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."

Presider This is the Gospel of Christ.
People Praise to Christ, the Word.

Please be seated

SERMON The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

MUSICAL REFLECTION *We will meditate quietly on God's word to us.*

Please stand as able

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response

instrumental intro $G^b\text{maj}7$ A^b7_{sus} A^b7 Hear our -

A
5 $F\text{m}7$ $B^b\text{m}7$ $F\text{m}7$ $B^b\text{m}7$
prayer - O - Lord hear our - prayer O - Lord - - in -

9 $G^b\text{maj}7$ \oplus A^b7_{sus} A^b7
cline-Thine - ear - to - us - - - ple - ase - hear - us - Lord hear our

B
13 $F\text{m}7$ $B^b\text{m}7$ $F\text{m}7$ $B^b\text{m}7$
prayer O - Lord - hear - our - prayer - O - Lord - - - in -

17 $G^b\text{maj}7$ A^b7_{sus} A^b7
cline-Thine - ear - to - us - - - ple - ase - hear - us - Lord _____
Soft piano improvisation during prayer, play intro

Let us pray for the preservation of the earth. We give thanks for the beauty and abundance of the earth.

Give us and all peoples grace to live in harmony with your creation, wisdom and generosity in our use of its bounty.

Let us pray for peace and shared prosperity, and for the end of systemic racism that divides us.

We pray for leaders to serve the common good: Give wisdom to those who have responsibility and authority in every land, especially Joseph, our president; Kamala, our vice-president; Greg, our governor; Lina, our county judge; Sylvester, our mayor; and the legislatures, and courts; that we may share with justice the resources of the world, and work together in trust.

Response

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](#). For the peace and unity of the Church of God.

We give thanks for the good news of salvation for all people. Strengthen us for our work in the world, empower your Church to proclaim the gospel in service, word and sacrament.

Unite in the truth all who confess your name, that we may live together in love to your glory.

Let us pray for ourselves and our community. We give thanks for the fellowship of the communities in which we live and work, especially Trinity Church.

We pray for our 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.

We commend to your keeping ourselves and each other, our families, those with whom we work and learn, our neighbors and our friends. Enable us by your Spirit to live in love for you and for one another.

Response

We give thanks that you are the God who brings mercy and wholeness. Comfort and heal, we pray, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble, especially for those we now name: *Bill, Nick, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Monica, Daniel, Angela, Velma, Brian, Norma, and Diane.*

Heavenly Father, our neighbor has nowhere to call home: help us be aware. Our neighbor needs love and community: help us be active. Our neighbor is crying out for justice: help us be adamant to see an end to homelessness.

Let us give thanks for the faithful departed, especially for *Dorothy Church, Cindy Brimberry, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, and all victims of gun violence.* 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 *especially for Tim, Stephanie, Paul, Randy, Jacob, Kathryn, and Saba,* who are celebrating their birthdays.

Response

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.

The people may offer their own specific petitions, praises or thanksgivings.

Response

instrumental intro $G^{\flat}maj7$ $A^{\flat}7sus$ $A^{\flat}7$

Hear our -

A

5 $Fm7$ $B^{\flat}m7$ $Fm7$ $B^{\flat}m7$

prayer - O - Lord - hear our - prayer O - Lord - - in -

9 $G^{\flat}maj7$ \emptyset $A^{\flat}7sus$ $A^{\flat}7$

cline-Thine - ear - to - us - - - ple - ase - hear - us - Lord hear our

B

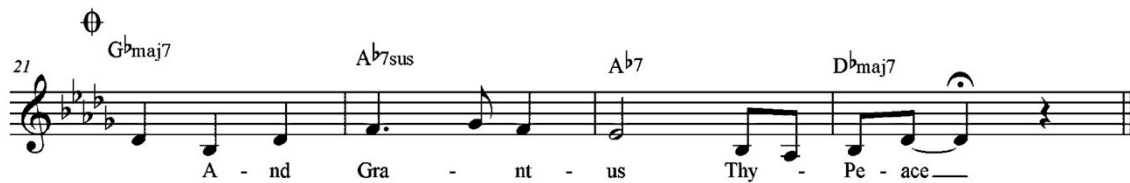
13 $Fm7$ $B^{\flat}m7$ $Fm7$ $B^{\flat}m7$

prayer O - Lord - hear - our - prayer - O - Lord - - - in -

17 $G^{\flat}maj7$ $A^{\flat}7sus$ $A^{\flat}7$

cline-Thine - ear - to - us - - - ple - ase - hear - us - Lord

Soft piano improvisation during prayer, play intro to cue next response.



THE PEACE

Presider Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace.
People Who breaks down the walls that divide.
 Presider The peace of God be always with you.
People Praise to Christ who makes us one.

MUSIC AT THE PEACE

Today

Richard Smallwood

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY LIFE AND ANNOUNCEMENT

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

The Liturgy of the Table

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 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.

THE OFFERTORY

Because He Lives

Trinity Jazz Ensemble

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as able.

Presider The Lord is here.
People God's Spirit is with us.
 Presider Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
 Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Presider

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son. You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image.

In your Son you suffered with us and for us, offering us the healing riches of salvation and calling us to freedom and holiness. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new age has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore with people of every nation, tribe and language, with the whole Church on earth and in heaven, joyfully we give you thanks and say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father; on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

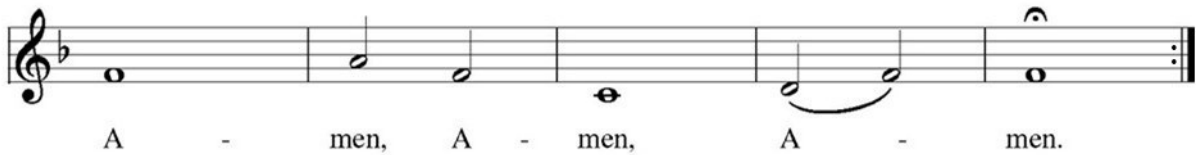
Therefore heavenly Father, in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness, we were far off until you brought us near and our hands are empty until you fill them.

As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy Spirit feed us with your heavenly food, renew us in your service, unite us in Christ, and bring us to your everlasting kingdom. From you, and through you, and for you are all things. To you be the glory for ever,

A - men, A - men,
A - men, A - men,



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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
 Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Alleluia. We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**People We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.
 Alleluia, alleluia.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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 you come forward for communion.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion is prayed by those at home unable to partake of communion in person

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our hearts, our souls, and our minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, In my heart;—
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart, In my heart;—
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart, In my heart;—
 4. I don't want to be like Ju - das In my heart, In my heart;—
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart, In my heart;—

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, _____
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart, _____
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart, _____
 4. I don't want to be like Ju - das In my heart, _____
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart, _____

In my heart, _____ In my heart, _____
 In my heart, _____ In my heart, _____

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart. _____
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart. _____
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart. _____
 4. I don't want to be like Ju - das In my heart. _____
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart. _____

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand as able.

- Presider Blessed be God who calls us together.
People Praise to God who makes us one people.
- Presider Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.
People Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.
- Presider Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.
People Praise to God who is revealed as love.
- Presider Blessed be God who alone has called us.
People Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.
- Presider Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.
People Accept our thanks for all you have done.
- Presider Send us now into the world you love.
People Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

THE 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.

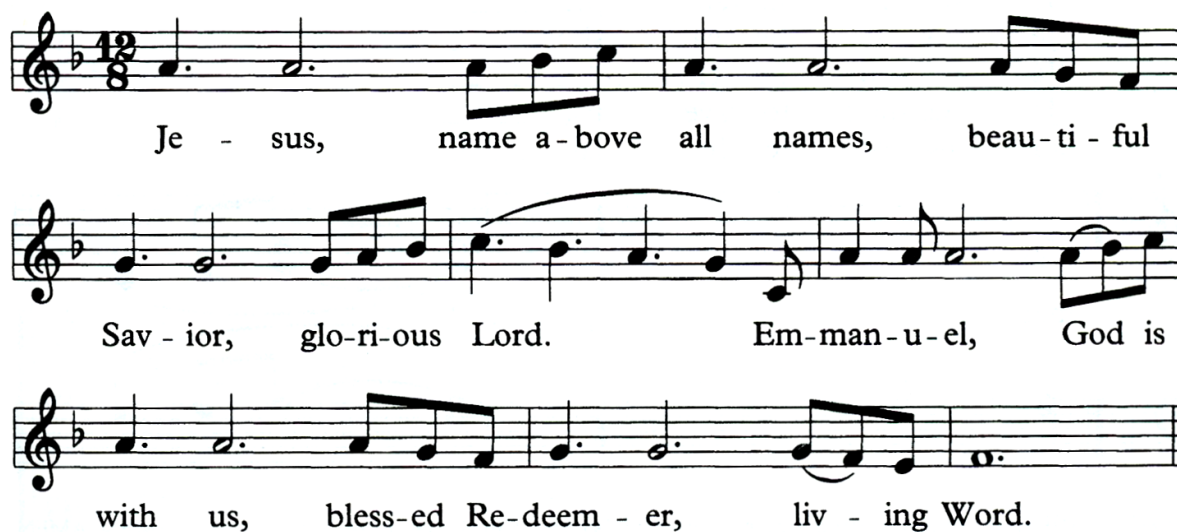
Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, Name above all Names



Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful
Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. Em - man - u - el, God is
with us, bless - ed Re - deem - er, liv - ing Word.

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Thank you for worshipping with us this afternoon.

*Service music printed from The Hymnal ©1982, and from
Lift Every Voice and Sing II, An African American Hymnal © 1993
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*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 or call/text at 832-370-7155
if you need assistance.*

Thank you





THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MIDTOWN
April 28, 2024 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Trinity Episcopal Church | 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)

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>

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.

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. 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 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 for more details.



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/.
Next available dates: May 5th, 12th



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



Next available dates: May 5th, 12th

Happy Birthday!

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

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

The Rev. Dale Klitzke, Priest Associate
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Carol Turley, Membership Secretary
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Larry Laubach, Treasurer
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*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.



@trinitychurchhouston



@trinityepiscopalmidtown



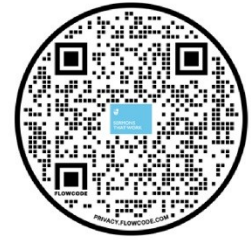
@trinityepiscopalchurch



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For more information on annual giving visit 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.

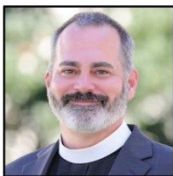
We know all too well that life is filled with suffering. Some of us feel paralyzing guilt and condemnation because of the sins we've committed. Some of us feel overwhelming shame because of the sins committed against us. Some of us feel despair because of the impulses and addictions that seem to have 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](#).*

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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



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.

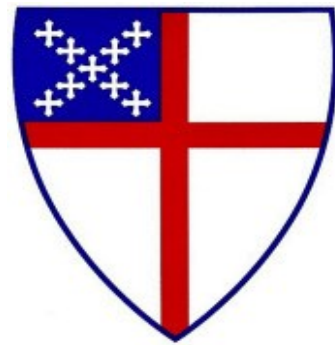
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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