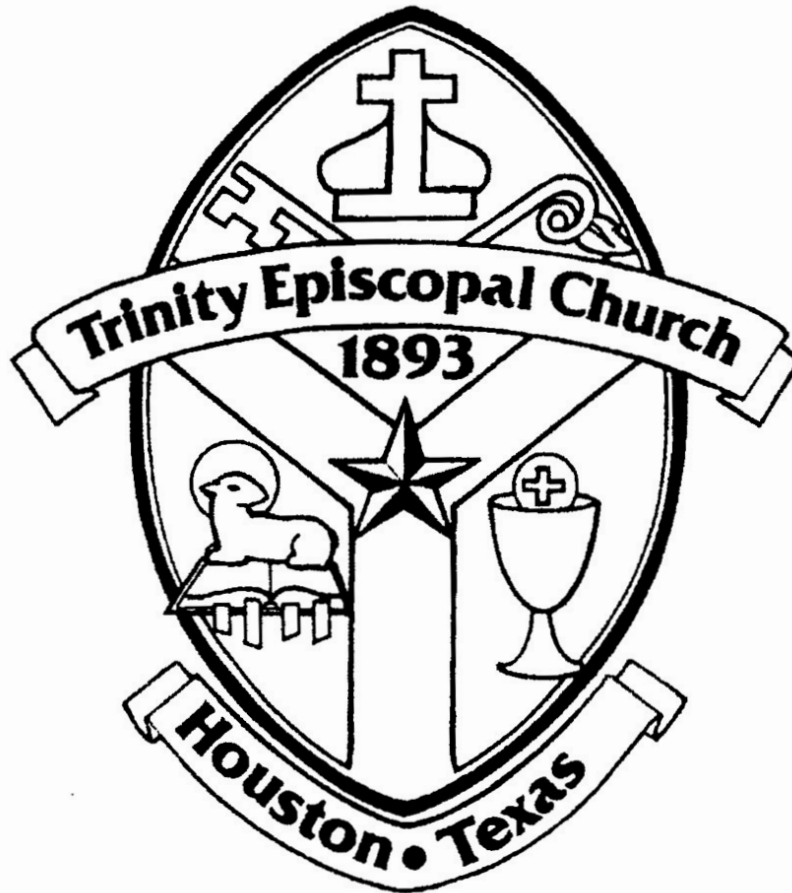


# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 30, 2023  
8:00 a.m.



The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector  
The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate 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.
- 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*

John Escoto, *Junior Warden*

Eric Beam  
Ben Blanding  
Pam Lawson  
Mary Matteucci  
Ann McCoy

John Merullo  
Samantha Rainman  
Gladys Vallés  
David Villarreal  
Michele White

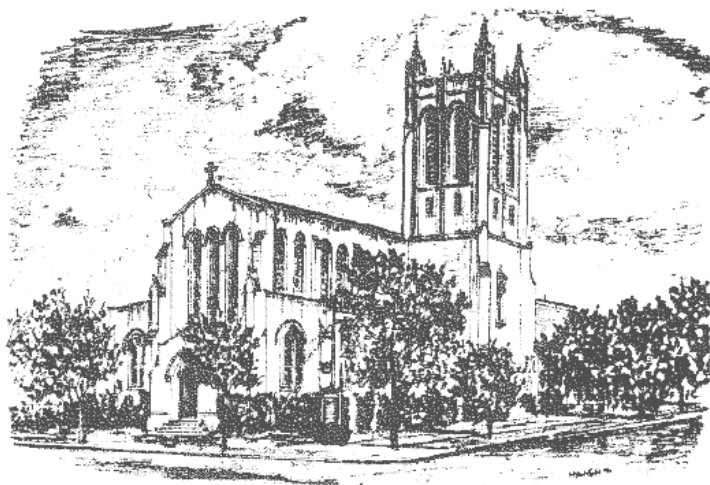
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Teddy Adams, *Chancellor*  
Dana Gannon, *Assistant Chancellor*  
Larry Laubach, *Treasurer*  
Steve Lee, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Ben Blanding, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Samantha Rainman, *Assistant Clerk of the Vestry*

## SERVING TODAY

Reader: Donna Cloteaux  
LEM: Toni Longino  
Music: Wendy Wentland, piano  
Vestry of the Day: Pam Lawson

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God  
and in remembrance of Stephen Wentland  
on the occasion of his 83rd birthday  
by Wendy Wentland



Follow us on:

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<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, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your 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 God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever.

**People** **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.**

PSALM 23

*Dominus regit me*  
*Alternately by whole verse.*

BCP, page 612

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

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.**

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

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

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 Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate 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.**

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, Luz 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 Michael Curry and the Episcopal Church](#). In the diocesan cycle of prayer for [St. Mark's, Houston; Trinity, Baytown; and Trinity, Houston](#). In the ministry cycle of prayer for [Norma Cooper and the Prayer Chain ministry](#).

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, Sylvester 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, Byron, Florence, Charles, Kathy, Demetrick, Christopher, Letha, Connie, Phil, Evan, Susan, Paul, Mary, Bob, Yvonne, Mary](#), 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever.

We offer you, O Lord, our prayers of thanksgiving, [especially for the birth of Valentino Gabriel Aleksandr Misirian, and for Paul, Jacob, Rob, 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 the Reverend Greg Buffone, all victims of gun violence, and all who have perished from contracting the Coronavirus](#), 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 PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People** **And also with you.**

*Please pass the peace in a socially distanced manner.*

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 through AccessACS.

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

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

**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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP, page 340

*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.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, page 339

**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.**

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.**

DISMISSAL

*Officiant*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

**People**

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.*

*Service music printed from The Hymnal ©1982*

*Church Pension Fund. Used by permission.*

*Additional licensing from OneLicense.net #A-705504.*

*Please note that June 4 is open to host (part/all) coffee hour:*

*Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or online.*



## THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OF TRINITY THE HEART OF MIDTOWN

April 30, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

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)

### Garden Club – Upcoming Opportunities

The Garden Club is Trinity's longest running ministry. We work to keep the church grounds beautiful and peaceful. We also sponsor and facilitate the making of Chrismons for our Chrismon tree. We would love to have you involved and we are actively inviting new members to the club. You don't have to have lots of gardening experience to join, we are happy to teach you!

- May 5th – Monthly Club Meeting at 10am
- May 7th – Annual self-guided garden tour with refreshments during coffee hour.
- June 2nd – Chrismon making informational session!

For more information please contact Sylvia Drew at [trymahjong@yahoo.com](mailto:trymahjong@yahoo.com)

### LOTS Luncheon: May 9th, 11:30am–1:00pm

LOTS annual fundraising and celebration luncheon is just around the corner! Have you bought your ticket or purchased a table yet? Trinity's support of LOTS is crucial to their success and service in our community. For registration and sponsorships please click [here](#).

### Thy Kingdom Come: May 18th–28th

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journals will be available on campus. For general information click [here](#) and for family resources click [here](#).

### Trinity Meet and Greet: April 30th

Our Meet and Greet gatherings are held in the Rector's office and give guests and newcomers to Trinity an opportunity to enjoy casual conversation with the Rector in an informal setting. All meetings are at 11:45 am following the 10:30 am service.

### Trinity Ministry Fair June 4th

The Ministry Fair is a wonderful way for members and visitors to meet and gather information about the various ministries, committees, mission trips, and educational opportunities that are available within the church. Each ministry will be showcased through the use of a display at a table or booth. Come join us after the 10:30 am service on **June 4th** for coffee hour and fellowship while you discover where God is leading you to serve!

### Wear Orange Weekend – June 3rd–5th

In an effort to bring awareness to gun violence in America, we invite you to wear orange in support of gun reform in America on June 3rd–5th. There are many ways to participate during the designated weekend from events, to sharing on social media, to distributing information and much more. For more information and ways to be involved click [here](#).

### Episcopal Night at the Ballpark: July 28th

We invite you to mark your calendars for July 28th – Episcopal Night at the Ballpark. More information coming soon on how to purchase your ticket for a Trinity outing!

### THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

#### Sunday, April 30th, 2023

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel)  
9:30 am Education Hr for All – Adults in Smith Rm, Tweens in Fellowship Hall, Kids in Atrium  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church)  
12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (Chapel)  
8:00 pm Compline (Facebook)

#### Monday, May 1st, 2023

5:30pm Evening Prayer

#### Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023

10:00am Sandwich Makers  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer

#### Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023

10:30 am Staff Meeting  
12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer  
6:00 pm Healing Service (Zoom)

#### Thursday, May 4th, 2023

12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer

#### Friday, May 5th, 2023

12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer

#### Saturday, May 6th, 2023

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



### 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.

Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Jill, Stephen, Emily, Van, Dick, Teresa, Victims of Violence, Ric, Barbara, Livia, Carolyn, Sylvia, Daniel, Kensington, Theophilis, Lynn, Joyce, Bob, Cindy, Christine, David, Robert, Patty, Jose, Julie, Callie, Billie, Be, Graham, Debbie, Dana, Edgar, Gary, Maryanne, Sam, Samantha, Jarrett, Maddie, Harrison, Eugenia, Emilia, and Gaby.

#### For the faithful departed:

The Rev. Greg Buffone, all victims of gun violence and all who have perished from contracting the Coronavirus.

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

**Rev. Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector**  
associaterector@trinitymidtown.org

**Rev. Dale Klitzke, Priest Associate**  
dale.klitzke@gmail.com

**Ryan Mire, Parish Administrator**  
parishadministrator@TrinityMidtown.org

**Lauren Santerre, Admin Assistant**  
adminassistant@trinitymidtown.org

**Alex Jones Organist/Choirmaster**  
alexjonesorganist93@gmail.com

**Carver Mathis, 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

\*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 – 4 pm  
Friday 9 am – 1 pm

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

### 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/).

**The next available dates: May 14th and May 28th. Mother’s Day and Pentecost Sunday!**



Sign-ups for coffee hour hosts are available, please sign up online to volunteer [here](#).

**Next available dates: April 30th and June 11th.**



Paul Bower, Jacob Davidson, Rob Christie, and Saba Blanding



@trinitychurchouston



@trinityepiscopalmidtown



@trinityepiscopalchurch



Let’s Connect | [www.trinitymidtown.org](http://www.trinitymidtown.org)



For more information on annual giving visit [2023 Stewardship Campaign](#).

## 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.

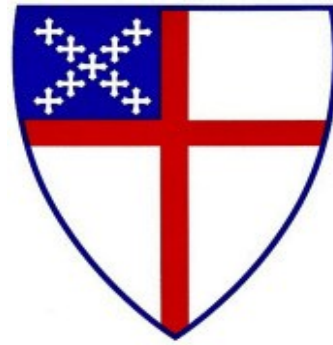
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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