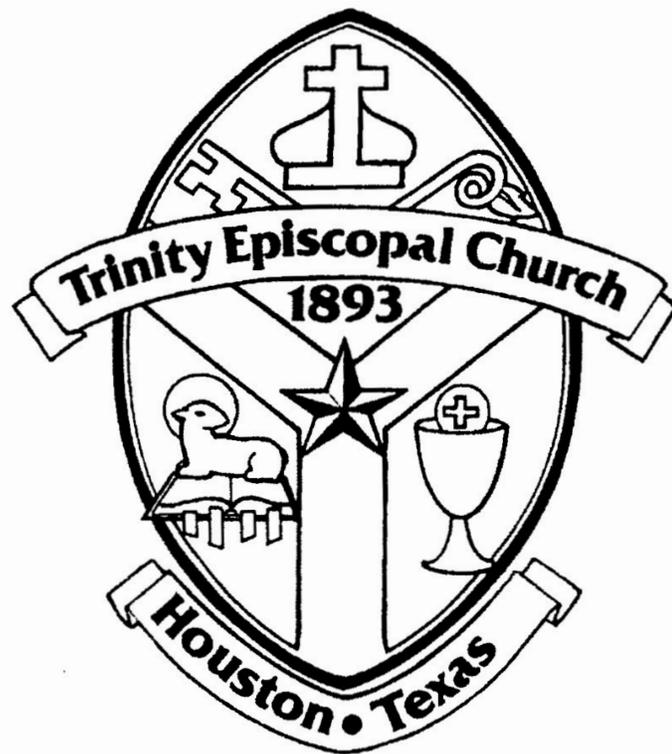


ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 8, 2021
12:30 p.m.



All attending please wear masks and maintain 6 feet social distancing with those not in your household

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

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 this afternoon. 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://forms.gle/dvuRW2FUDny2hpRz5>

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 all services, including this 12:30 p.m. service, are live streamed through our Trinity Facebook and Youtube pages.

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

Amy Luke, *Senior Warden*

John Escoto, *Junior Warden*

Eric Beam
Ben Blanding
Jim Castro
Norma Cooper
Terri DiRaddo

Andy Durham
Pam Lawson
Ann McCoy
David Theis
Michele White

Teddy Adams, *Chancellor*
Dana Gannon, *Assistant Chancellor*
Larry Laubach, *Treasurer*
Steve Lee, *Assistant Treasurer*
Ben Blanding, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Castro, *Assistant Clerk of the Vestry*
Gayle Davies-Cooley, *Historian and Archivist*

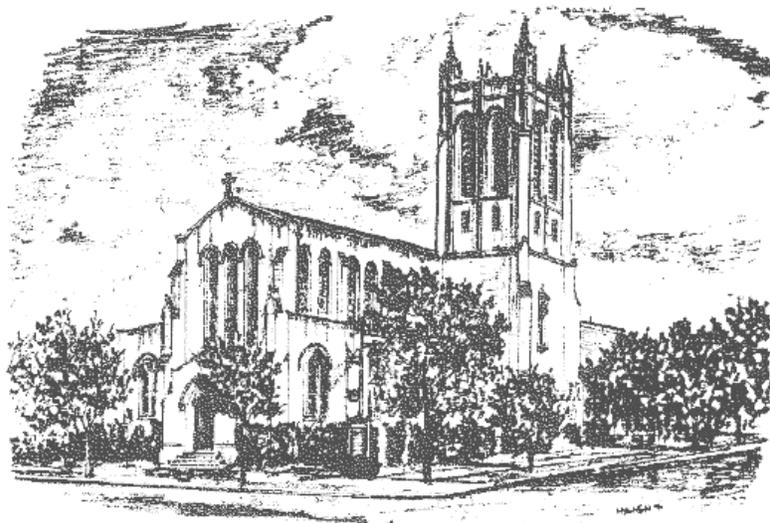
THE TRINITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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

SERVING TODAY

Lector: Sheila Wainwright
Prayers: Theresa McClellan
Usher: Bob Davenport
Greeter: Paul Bower
Audio Visual: Angel Williams

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God
and in celebration of the life of
the Reverend Henry L. Atkins, Jr.
by his family



Follow us on:

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



The Liturgy of the Word

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Please stand as able.

Presider I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth:
Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him!

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

Presider Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

Come to Me

LEVAS, page 156

1. "Come to me, Ye who are hard op - pressed;
2. "Come to me!" Je - ho - vah gen - tly pleads;

1. Lay your head gen - tly up - on my breast;
2. "Come to me, I can sup - ply all needs;

1. Come to me, And I will give you rest: wea - ry
2. And my way, Un - to green pas - ture leads; Free from

1. one, Hith - er come! God is your home!"
2. sin! En - ter in! God is your home!"

OPENING PRAYER

Presider Merciful God, you gave your only Son to be a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly life; help us gladly to receive all that he has done for us and follow in his footsteps; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 19: 4-8

Reader The first lesson is from First Kings.

Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Reader Here ends the first lesson.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4: 25-5:2

Reader The second lesson is from Ephesians.

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Please stand as able

John 6: 35, 41-51

Presider The Holy Gospel according to John.

People **Praise and glory to God!**

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come

down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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

Please be seated

SERMON The Reverend Canon Dr. Henry L. Atkins, Jr., Theologian in Residence

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

Please stand as able

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response

instrumental intro $G^{\flat}maj7$ $A^{\flat}7_{sus}$ $A^{\flat}7$
 Hear our -

A
 5 $Fm7$ $B^{\flat}m7$ $Fm7$ $B^{\flat}m7$
 prayer - O - Lord hea our - prayer O - Lord - - in -

9 $G^{\flat}maj7$ \oplus $A^{\flat}7_{sus}$ $A^{\flat}7$
 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 $G^{\flat}maj7$ $A^{\flat}7_{sus}$ $A^{\flat}7$
 cline-Thine - ear - to - us - - - ple - asc - hear - us - Lord - - -

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

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; Sylvester, our mayor; Lina, our county judge; and for 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 A. Dharmaraj Rasalam and the Church of South India](#). In the diocesan cycle of prayer for [St. Francis', Temple; St. John's, Marlin; St. Joseph's, Salado; and St. Martin's, Copperas Cove](#). In the ministry cycle of prayer for [Vic Powell and the Sound Operators](#). 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, Hector, Jeff and Kai, our Bishops; for Hannah, Luz and Henry our clergy.

We commend to your keeping ourselves and each other, our families, those with whom we work and learn, our neighbors and our friends. 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, Barbara, Eula, Kensington, Pat, Jeanne, Jimmie, Charlee, Jeff, Reiss, Stewart, and Andy](#).

[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 Esther Fiteni, Margaret Hunter, Romana Lippelt, Thom O'Brien, Tommy Theis, Geoffrey Nesossi, all who have perished by contracting the Coronavirus, 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 these who are celebrating their birthdays: [Theresa, Michaela, Jacob, Ruth, Anthony, and Janet](#).

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.

Final 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 hea our - prayer O - Lord - - in -

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

21 Φ $G^{\flat}maj7$ $A^{\flat}7sus$ $A^{\flat}7$ $D^{\flat}maj7$
A - nd Gra - nt - us Thy - Pe - ace -

THE CONFESSION

Presider Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. I will confess my sins to the Lord. I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

God forgives and heals us.

People We need your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us; some escape us; some we cannot face. Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.

Presider God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself.

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

The Liturgy of the Table

Please be seated.

OFFERING

For those worshiping in person, there is an offering plate by the door.

Online Giving is available through AccessACS.

Go to www.trinitymidtown.org and click the "Give" button on the top right, or click: <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=156477>

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

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

THE OFFERTORY

When Did You Leave Heaven?

Whiting/Bullock/Wilson

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.

When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. By his death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world and freed us from the bondage of sin. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit.

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,

Let the Church say A - men, let the Church say A - men God has
5 spo-ken let the Church say A - men

As Christ teaches us, we pray:

**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

For the duration of the current pandemic we will offer communion in one kind, the bread only. The priest will bring communion to your seat.



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.

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.

This is my bod - y giv - en up for you, this is my

blood poured out for you. This is my bod - y giv - en

up for you, this is my blood poured out for you.

Bod - y of Christ, A - men, Blood of

Christ, A - men, Bod - y of Christ,

A - men, Blood of Christ, A - men.

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.**

COMMUNITY LIFE AND ANNOUNCEMENT

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

THE BLESSING

Presider The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always.

People Amen

CLOSING HYMN

Revive Us Again

LEVAS, page 157

1. We praise thee, O God, For the son of thy
 2. We praise thee, O God, For thy spir - it of
 3. All glo - ry and praise To the lamb that was
 4. Re - vive us a - gain, Fill each heart with thy

1. love, For — Je - sus who died And is now gone a - bove.
 2. light, Who has shown us our Sav - ior, And scat - tered our night.
 3. slain, Who has borne all our sins And has cleansed ev - 'ry stain.
 4. love, May each soul be re - kin - dled With fire from a - bove.

Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry, Hal - le - lu - jah! A -

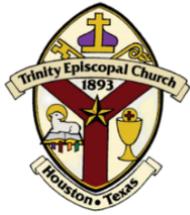
men. Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry. Re - vive us a - gain.

THE DISMISSAL

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

*Thank you for worshipping with us this afternoon.
Please remember to maintain social distancing as you depart.*

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THE WEEKLY WINDOW

of TRINITY *The Heart of Midtown*

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – Year B

August 8th, 2021

Announcements

Sunday In-Person Services have resumed.

8:00 am and 12:30 pm are in the Chapel. 10:30 am is held in the Historic Church. Please make sure to continue to mask up and social distance.

There will be a sign in sheet for each service at the entrances.



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of the life of the Reverend Henry L. Atkins, Jr. by his family

If you would like to make a flower dedication we have the following Sundays available August 15th, and August 29th You can sign up for a flower dedication by clicking [here](#)

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, August 8th, 2021

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (live in-person)
- 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Gulf Coast Blood Drive
- 9:30 am Parenting with Grace (via Zoom)
- 9:30 am Sunday Meditations (via Zoom)
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (live in-person and on Facebook)
- 12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (live in-person and on Facebook)
- 8:00 pm Compline (In Spanish via Zoom)

Monday, August 9th, 2021

- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer on Facebook

Tuesday, August 10th, 2021

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 6:00 pm Property Committee Meeting (via zoom)
- 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting (via zoom)

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021

- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer on Facebook
- 6:00 pm Healing Service (via Zoom)
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 12th, 2021

- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday, August 13th, 2021

- 10:30 am Yoga and Meditations
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer



We are considering bringing back in September some ministries that have helped us connect with those living around us. Join us.

The ministries focus on those who have no roof over their head. The Listening Post, our ministry of presence; Evening Prayer, where we lead our visitors in prayers in the sanctuary read by the volunteer; and the Sandwich Makers who gather 15 minutes a day and put together brown bags of food to be distributed daily after evening prayer.

For More Information click [here](#)



Let's help Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC) help our neighbors by donating canned goods. They can always use another peanut butter! Trinity collects non perishable food offerings at the back of the church every Sunday.

Thank you!

Questions? Contact Mary Johns mkjohns@wt.net



www.trinitymidtown.org

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.

Myron, Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Jill, Stephen, Emily, Van, Vivian Jane, Bob, Theresa, Marvin, Sue, Tom, Nick, Ric, Margaret, Livia, Joshua, Sandi, Barbara, Larry, Monica, Carolyn, Randy, Sylvia, Danielle, Lynelle, Minnie, Mary, Richard, Leonard, Jim, Elise, Be, Reiss, Phil, Carol, Stewart

For the faithful departed
Margaret Hunter, Romana Lippelt, Geoffrey Nesossi, Esther Fiteni, Tommy Theiss, and all who have perished by contracting the coronavirus and victims of gun violence.

For our Iona Seminarian
Carrie Hirdes



Theresa McClellan
Michaela Jefferson
Jacob Tull
Ruth Wyche
Anthony Thornton
Janet Greene



Trinity Episcopal Church

1015 Holman@Main
713-528-4100



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

Rev. Luz Cabrera Montes, Curate
curate@trinitymidtown.org

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

Ryan Mire, Front Office Manager
FrontOffice@TrinityMidtown.org

**Hank Carrillo, interim
Organist/Choirmaster**
music@trinitymidtown.org

Pat Laubach, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@trinitymidtown.org

Carol Turley, Membership Secretary
membership@trinitymidtown.org

Larry Laubach, Treasurer
finance@trinitymidtown.org

Trinity Vestry

Amy Luke, Senior Warden
John Escoto, Junior Warden
Ben Blanding, Jim Castro, Norma Cooper,
Terri DiRaddo, Andy Durham, Ann McCoy,
David Theis, Michele White, Pamela Lawson,
and Eric Beam.

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www.trinitymidtown.org

Trinity Beating Strong For & With You!

Here is an easy way to give!

TEXT

heartofmidtown
to 73256.

For assistance and/or questions please contact

Trinity Finance Office

email: finance@trinitymidtown.org
phone: (713) 528-4100.

If you would like to subscribe or resubscribe to church email correspondence please click [here](#)

GIVE BLOOD

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday, August 8
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Donor Coach

FREE SUMMER BEACH TOWEL FOR ALL DONORS

Scan the QR code to sign up:



Readings this Sunday

1 Kings 19: 4-8
Psalm 34: 1-8
Ephesians 4: 25-5:2
John 6: 35, 41-51

Blessings Friends,

We are considering bringing back in September some ministries that have helped us connect with those living around us. Join us.

The ministries focus on those who have no roof over their head. The Listening Post, our ministry of presence; Evening Prayer, where we lead our visitors in prayers in the sanctuary read by the volunteer; and the Sandwich Makers who gather 15 minutes a day to put together brown bags of food to be distributed daily after evening prayer.

We are looking for volunteers for all three ministries. And let me tell you, these will nourish your soul and your prayer life.

Everyone yearns to be seen and heard, and this is most true for those who find their shelter on the streets and are often dismissed, shamed, and overlooked.

While the Lord of the Streets provides tangible goods such as mail, clothing, healthcare, and Bible study, "The Listening Post" is an opportunity for those clients and anyone on the street to stop for respite.

Every Friday from noon to 2 p.m., we create an oasis on the street in front of Trinity Church beneath the old oak tree. We provide anyone walking a chair to rest their bodies, refreshments, and someone to talk to about their day, their joys, their sadness, or anything on their mind.

With a simple gesture of hospitality and a listening ear, we allow them to sit in silence if they want to, without filling out forms. It allows them to express their concerns and to have someone to talk to, have someone to listen, someone to witness. It gives them time to breathe, to think, to vent, to release, and in so doing, allows them the space to hear their thoughts. By providing a non-judgmental presence, we give a safe space to find their path to a solution. In the Book of Job, the most powerful thing his friends could do for seven days was sit in silence and honor his grieving. So many of those we encounter who are homeless or near homeless are so set upon they feel like JOB. We are their witness. We see them. We hear them. And in so doing, we empower them.

We are not counselors. We are listeners. We will provide training. But some skills you will need are to be a good listener without trying to fix them, empathetic, and the ability to remain calm, non-judgmental.

Over the next few Sundays, we will share moments from those ministries in this space in the hopes you will want to get involved.

If interested, contact our Curate Luz at Curate@TrinityMidtown.org or me at Theresa@theresawriter.com

In joy,

Theresa D. McClellan

Theresa@theresawriter.com

Head of Evening Prayer and Listening Post Ministries

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.

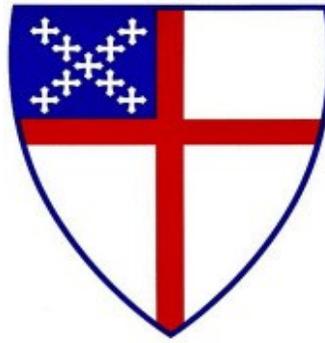
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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