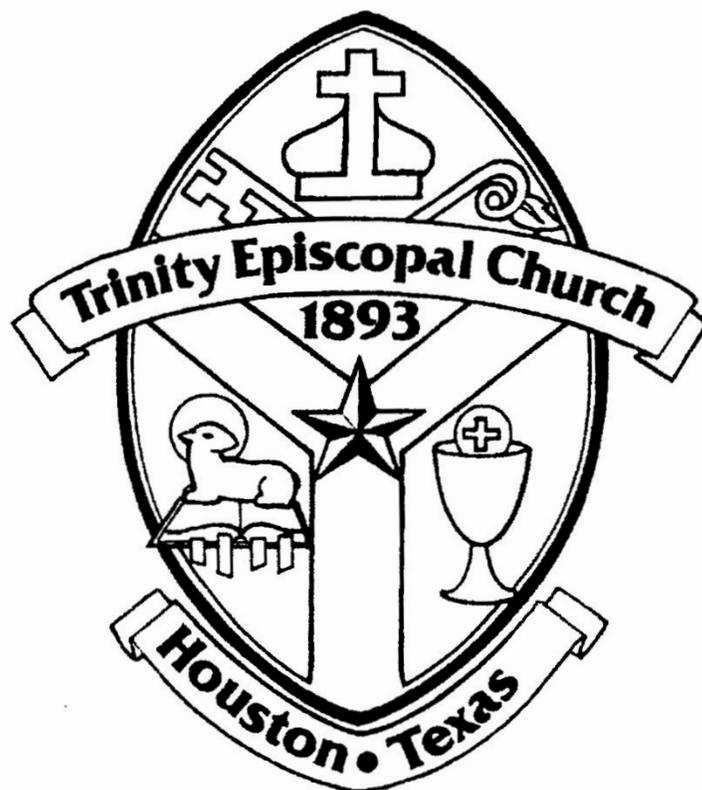


FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 29, 2021
8:00 a.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

Hank Carrillo, Interim Organist and Choirmaster

***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://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



VESTRY

Amy Luke, *Senior Warden*

John Escoto, *Junior Warden*

Eric Beam	Andy Durham
Ben Blanding	Pam Lawson
Jim Castro	Ann McCoy
Norma Cooper	David Theis
Terri DiRaddo	Michele White

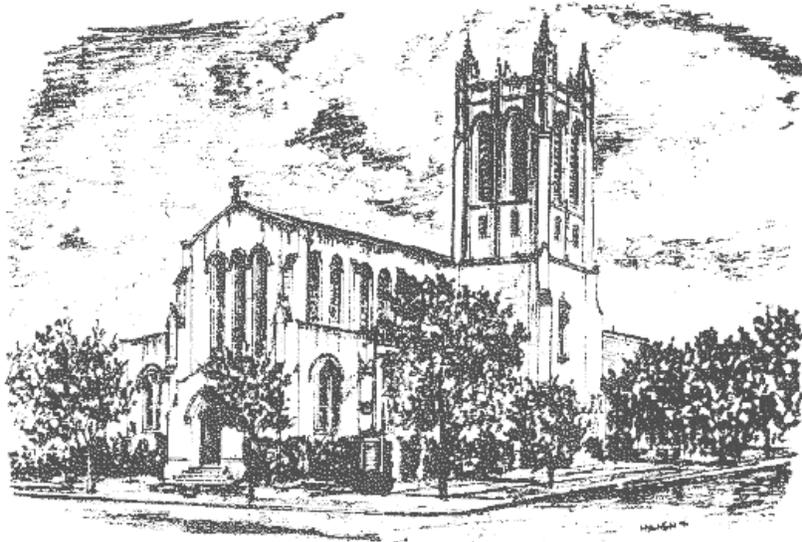
Teddy Adams, *Chancellor*
Dana Gannon, *Assistant Chancellor*
Larry Laubach, *Treasurer*
Steve Lee, *Assistant Treasurer*
Ben Blanding, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Castro, *Assistant Clerk of the Vestry*
Gayle Davies-Cooley, *Historian and Archivist*

SERVING TODAY

Reader: Toni Longino

Music: Wendy Wentland, piano

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God
and in celebration of our 39th Wedding Anniversary
by Barney and Beatrice Ong



Follow us on:

Facebook

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Instagram

<https://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown>

Youtube

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



HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

WELCOME

Please stand as able.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, page 323

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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 you 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 45: 1-2, 7-10

Eructavit cor meum
Alternately by whole verse.

BCP, page 647

- 1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; *
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.
- 2 You are the fairest of men; *
grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.**
- 7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, *
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.
- 8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you *
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.**
- 9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, *
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.
- 10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; *
on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.**

THE SECOND LESSON

James 1: 17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Wendy Wentland, piano

Please stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, page 326

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

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

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP, page 328

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

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

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Hector, Jeff and Kai, our Bishops; for Hannah, Luz and Henry 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 Justin Badi Arama and the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan](#). In the diocesan cycle of prayer for [Holy Comforter, Spring](#); [Holy Family, Humble](#); and [St. Aidan's, Cypress](#). In the ministry cycle of prayer for [Jackie Rose and the Trinity Endowment](#).

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.

[Bless Afghanistan, Haiti, and all nations of the world facing tumults and natural disasters, with Christ's gifts of healing and peace.](#) 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, Barbara, Eula, Kensington, Pat, Jeanne, Jimmie, Charlee, Reiss, Karen, Susan, Wanda, Andy, David, Stewart, Jeff, Terri, Carolyn, Ben, 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, ever world without end.

We offer you, O Lord, our prayers of thanksgiving, [especially for Mary, John, Ben, Susan, Emily, Alice, Carolyn, and Kyle](#) 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 Donny Thrift, all who have perished by contracting the Coronavirus, and all victims of gun violence, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

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

CONFESSION

Officiant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE PEACE

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

Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING

For those wishing to leave an offering, 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 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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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.

Please stand as able.

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.**

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.

Please stand as able.

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 peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Officiant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

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



THE WEEKLY WINDOW

of TRINITY *The Heart of Midtown*

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year B

August 29th, 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.



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of our 39th Wedding Anniversary by Barney and Beatrice Ong

If you would like to make a flower dedication, you can sign up for a flower dedication by clicking [here](#)

Blessing of the Backpacks

This Sunday August 29th, at all Three Services



This Week at Trinity

Sunday, August 29nd, 2021

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (live in-person)
- 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)
- 11:45 am Sandwich Makers (in Fellowship Hall)
- 12:00 pm Vaccination Clinic (In parking lot)
- 12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (live in-person and on Facebook)
- 8:00 pm Compline (In Spanish via Zoom)

Monday, August 30th, 2021

- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer on Facebook

Tuesday, August 31st, 2021

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

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

Thursday, September 2nd, 2021

- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday, September 3rd, 2021

- 10:30 am Trinity Garden Club (Fellowship hall)
- 12:00 pm The Listening Post
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Inner City Spirit

A Podcast by Trinity Episcopal Church



Hosted by The Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector



A New Summer Series of Inner City Spirit is now available on our website click [here](#) for more information

www.trinitymidtown.org



We are 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.

For More Information click [here](#)

take your BEST SHOT!

FREE COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Trinity Episcopal Church
1015 Holman St
Houston, Texas 77004

Sunday, August 29, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

WALK INS WELCOME

Appointments:
www.hhdvaccinations.org
or **832-393-4220**

Pfizer (age 12+) Vaccine
Getting vaccinated is FREE and does require ID, proof of residency, citizenship, or insurance.




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

Thank you!

Questions? Contact Mary Johns mkjohns@wt.net

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, Phil, Carol

For the faithful departed
Donny Thrift and all who have perished by contracting the coronavirus and victims of gun violence.

For our Iona Seminarian
Carrie Hirdes



Mary Matteucci
John Merullo
Ben Semmes
Susan Sample
Emily White
Alice Powell
Carolyn Reyes
Kyle Scallan

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

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

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.

Follow us on:

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YouTube

www.youtube.com/trinityepiscopalchurch



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](#)



Harris County is currently in the Red Threat level of Covid-19 cases. We must continue to do our part to end the Pandemic . Please remember to mask up, wash your hands, and social distance. Vaccinations are available for free from most healthcare providers in the city.

Cases
24836
(526.93 per 100k)
72.95 % change

Data through Sun Aug 22 2021

For More Info from the CDC about Covid-19 please click [here](#) for the following link.

Readings this Sunday

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13
Psalm 45: 1-2, 7-10
James 1: 17-27
Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Physical and Spiritual Sustenance
The Evening Prayer and Sandwich Maker Ministries
By Theresa D. McClellan

At 5:30 p.m. every weekday, the church bell tolls, and footsteps head toward the front doors of Trinity Episcopal Church Midtown. They come from street benches, from beneath the freeway, from buses, from halfway houses, from newly acquired apartments, from minimum wage jobs, neighborhood jobs, and occasionally from the community.

They come in search of a place of respite from the streets, to get cool, to hear prayers, to receive food, to feel welcome.

The officiant, usually wearing a choir robe or vestments, greets them with a smile from the podium, welcoming them to evening prayer. She thanks them for coming and tells them, "this is your time. Time to get still, to hear prayers, perhaps a message that will touch you, make you think. This is your time to pray and to be prayed for. Welcome."

The security guard who greets them reminds them to enter and be seated on the left side of the sanctuary where the officiant will be speaking. He tells them to remove their hats and place their sometimes extensive belongings on the floor, so it doesn't scratch the pews. The congregation of about 20-40 visitors is predominately male, but some women have joined. Some of the men and women are regular visitors.

The officiant, standing behind the lector podium, reads Scripture, Psalms, and Prayers from the Book of Evening Prayer, according to the daily lectionary. Some officiants have prepared a mini-sermon based on the day's Scripture, but it is not required.

After the prayers have ended, our visitors line up single file to exit out the side door and receive a fresh brown bag of two bologna and cheese sandwiches, condiments, and crackers. A water cooler with cups is outside the sanctuary.

For some, it is their first and only meal of the day, and they often grasp the officiant's hand in gratitude for the physical and spiritual sustenance. This is a ministry that nurtures your soul and requires many hands.

To make these meals possible, volunteers from the **Sandwich Makers Ministry** gather at Trinity on the first Tuesday of the month and the third Sunday of the month to make sandwiches. More than **800 sandwiches** are made at each of those gatherings. The need is great.

The sandwiches are individually stored in plastic bags and placed in the freezer to extend freshness. This season when we begin the **Evening Prayer Ministry** on **Monday, September 27**, we will need two volunteers to arrive daily **before the 5:30 p.m. service** to assemble the pre-made sandwiches into brown bag meals. These volunteers will also serve as greeters who may be the only friendly face our Evening Prayer visitors have encountered that day. When we see the face of God in everyone, it is easy to offer a smile.

Since we have been offering Evening Prayer nightly online, we will provide live streaming of the prayer service. Rev. Luz's husband Thanh will provide training **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, August 21**, for volunteer greeters to learn these skills so we may offer the service to a wider audience.

Friends, the Evening Prayer Ministry, and the Sandwich Makers Ministry is an opportunity for faith in action. I hope this inside look inspires you to join. Volunteers have committed to weekly services or just twice a month. Our long-time leader John Merullo will train newcomer Officiants.

If interested, contact our Curate the Rev. Luz Montes at Curate@Trinitymidtown.org or me at theresa@theresawriter.com.

In joy,
Theresa D. McClellan
theresa@theresawriter.com

Head of the 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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