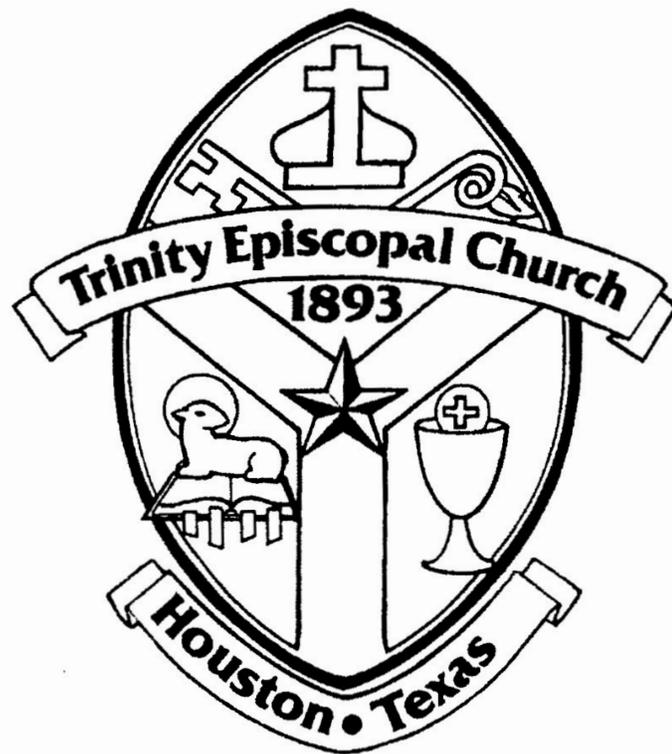


FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 29, 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	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*

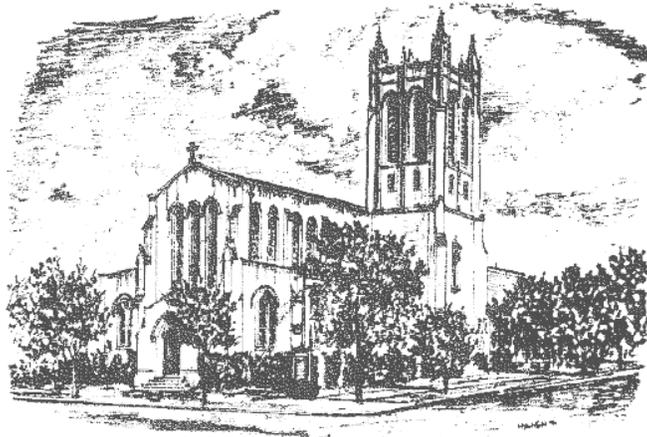
THE TRINITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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

SERVING TODAY

Lector: Caroline Levander
Prayers: Sheila Wainwright
Usher: Bob Davenport
Greeter: Paul Bower
Audio Visual: Angel Williams

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>



The Liturgy of the Word

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Please stand as able.

Presider 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.

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

Presider Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

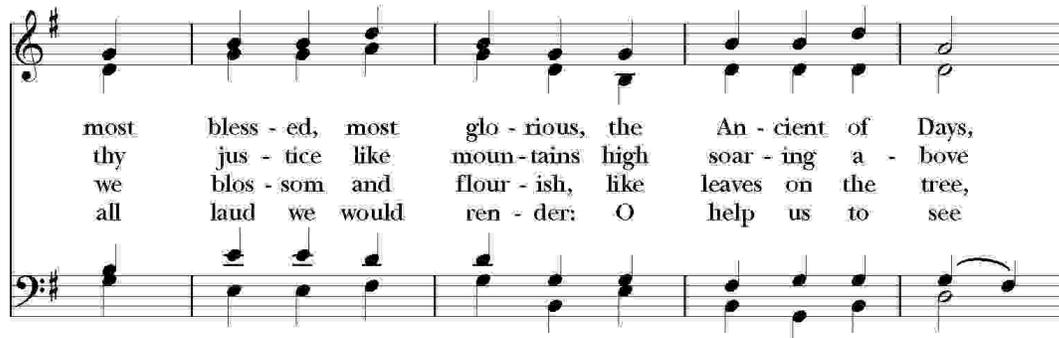
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



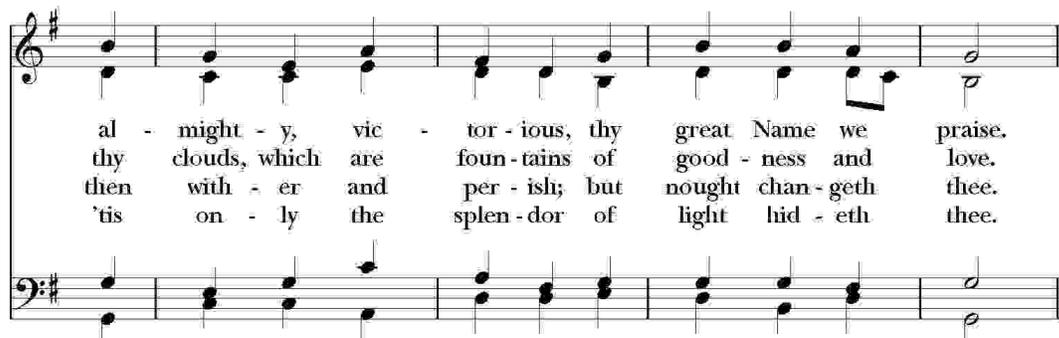
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise,
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love,
then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider Gentle Father, show us our sins as they really are so that we may truly renounce them and know the depth and richness of your mercy. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Reader A reading from Song of Solomon.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON

James 1: 17-27

Reader A reading from James.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Please stand as able

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

Presider

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

People

Praise and glory to God!

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."

Presider

This is the Gospel of Christ.

People

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Please be seated

SERMON

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

Please stand as able

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response

instrumental intro G^bmaj7 A^b7sus A^b7

Hear our -

A

5 Fm7 B^bm7 Fm7 B^bm7

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

9 G^bmaj7 A^b7sus A^b7

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

B

13 Fm7 B^bm7 Fm7 B^bm7

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

17 G^bmaj7 A^b7sus A^b7

cline-Thine - ear - to - us - - ple - ase - 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: [Bless Afghanistan, Haiti, and all nations of the world facing tumults and natural disasters, with Christ's gifts of healing and peace.](#) 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 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.](#) 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.

Let us give thanks for the faithful departed, especially Donny Thrift, 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: Mary, John, Ben, Susan, Emily, Alice, Carolyn, and Kyle.

Response

O God, we who come before you this day are many and diverse, with different needs and desires.

We ask you to accept our thanksgivings, to guide our ways, and to receive our praise. O God, hear the prayers of your people.

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

Response

THE CONFESSION

Prisider 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.

Prisider God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself.

THE PEACE

Prisider Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace.

People Who breaks down the walls that divide.

Prisider 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 worshipping 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

Moonlight Serenade

Glenn Miller

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

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

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.

Give me a clean heart so I may serve
 thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by
 thee. For I'm not worthy of all these bless -
 ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol - low thee.
 1. I'm not ask - ing for the rich - es of the land.
 (2. Some - times) I am up and some - times I am down.
 1. I'm not ask - ing for the proud to know my
 2. Some - times I am al - most lev - el to the
 1. name. Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that
 2. ground. Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that
 1. I may fol - low thee. Give me a clean heart, a
 2. I may fol - low thee. Give me a clean heart, a
 1. clean heart, and I will fol - low thee. 2. Some - times
 2. clean heart, and I will fol - low thee.

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

1. I am weak but thou art strong;
 2. Through this world of toil and snares,
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,

Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee.

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 3. Time for me will be no more; Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

Refrain: Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea. Dai - ly walk - ing close to

D.C. for Refrain

1. long As I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 2. shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 3. o'er To Thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

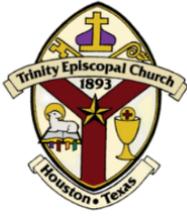
Refrain: thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

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.*

*Service music printed from Lift Every Voice and Sing II,
 An African American Hymnal © 1993
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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 mjohns@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.

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



Follow us on:

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Instagram

www.instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown

YouTube

www.youtube.com/trinityepiscopalchurch



www.trinitymidtown.org



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.

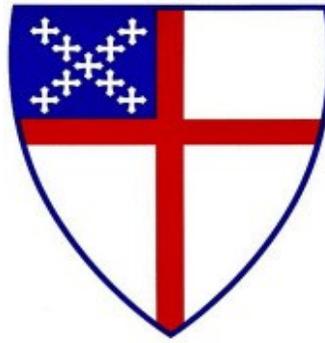
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street 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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PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

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