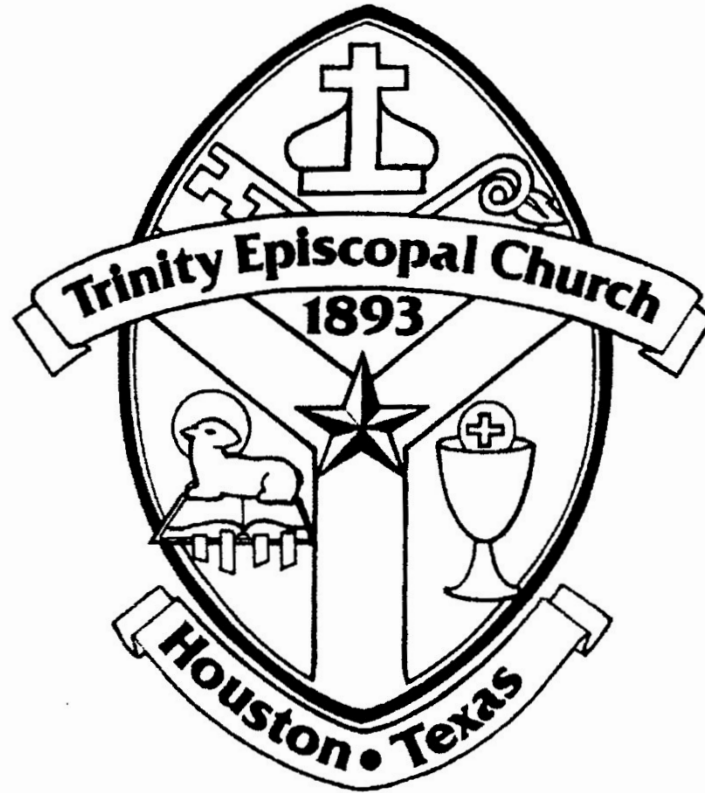


THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023
10:30 a.m.



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

Alex Jones, 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. We follow the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) to guide our worship. In this leaflet, you'll find everything you need to follow along printed.

Whether you've been attending Trinity your whole life or this is your first time here, we invite you to participate in the service as fully as you feel comfortable doing.

If you're looking for a new church home, know that the Trinity family welcomes you. We would also appreciate your filling out a virtual visitors card, which can be accessed at this link:

<https://www.trinitymidtown.org/contact-card-page/>

For more information, please visit our website:
www.trinitymidtown.org

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

Children 3yrs through 3rd grade *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* Meets in room 112 at 9:30 a.m. and the children return to their parents at the passing of the peace.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- Your children are welcome here at Trinity! First, please relax and enjoy your time here. We know that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it.
- Each Sunday, your child may pick up a pew activity in the back of the church.
- To make things easier for your family, dare to sit closer to the front where your child can see what's going on at the altar. Guide them in the liturgy and be models for them. Help them sing the hymns and encourage them to stand/sit when appropriate, say "Amen" and "Thanks be to God," and generally help them be a part of the service. The liturgy belongs to them too.
- If you have to leave, hurry back! Jesus wants the children here, and we do too. If you need help, just ask. There are many here who are willing to lend you a hand.

VESTRY

Andy Durham, *Senior Warden*

John Escoto, *Junior Warden*

Eric Beam
Ben Blanding
Pam Lawson
Mary Matteucci
Ann McCoy

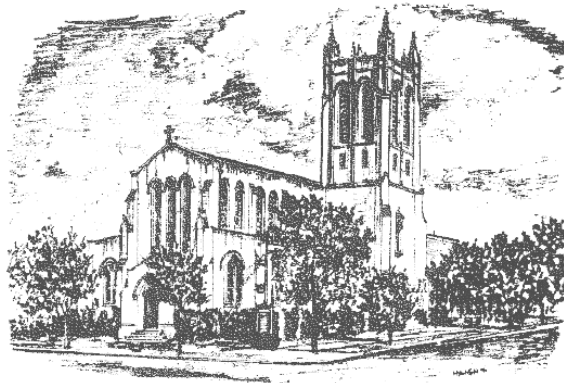
John Merullo
Samantha Rainman
Gladys Vallés
David Villarreal
Michele White

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

LAY MINISTERS SERVING TODAY

Lectors: Shelby Bradley , Norma Cooper, Jim Castro, Stan Tubbs, Dana Gannon
Prayers: Jim Castro
LEMs: Norma Cooper, Jim Castro
Acolytes: Joanne Starbuck, Mark Goza, David Villarreal, Mary Cloud, Barrett Hess
Ushers: Larry Laubach, Ben Blanding, Charles Cooper
Verger: Alex Bruton
Altar Guild: Mark Goza, Catherine Guthrie
Audio Visual: Jeremy Velasquez
Vestry of the Day: Ann McCoy

The High Altar flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God
and in thanksgiving for all the wonderful people at Trinity Midtown
by Treadwell and Henry Atkins.



Follow us on:

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Instagram
<https://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown>

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



LESSONS AND CAROLS AND HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Ward/Hopson family

Please stand as able.

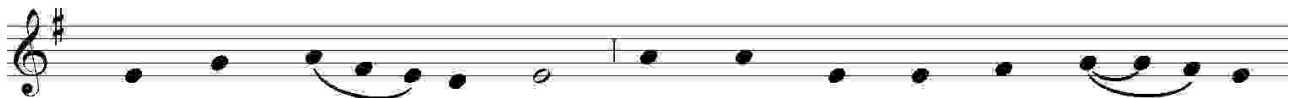
HYMN IN PROCESSION 56

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

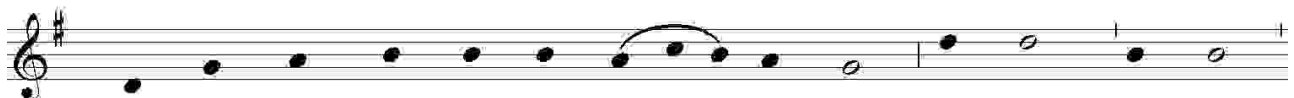
Veni, Veni, Emmanuel



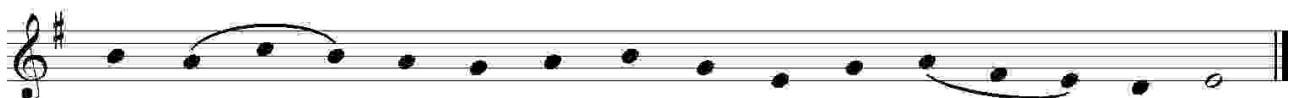
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, page 355

Celebrant 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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3: 1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

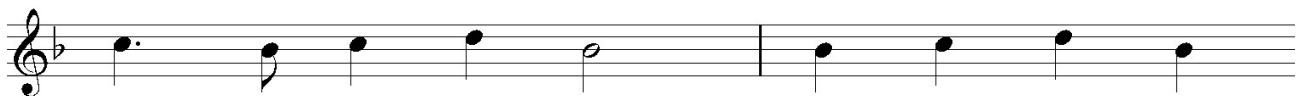
A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Please stand as able.

CAROL 2

*Savior of the nations, come**Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

CAROL 3

A Spotless Rose
sung by the choir

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

A spotless Rose is blowing
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

(Continued on page 8)

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?"

The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Please stand as able.

CAROL 4

Of the Father's love begotten

Divinum mysterium



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have _____ been, and that fu - ture
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♪♪♪♪

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

CAROL 5

Adam Lay Y'Bounden

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

Adam lay bound,
Bound in a bond
Four thousand winters
He thought were not long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took.
As clerkës finden written
In their book.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clergy find written
In their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady,
A-been heavene queen.

But had the apple not been taken,
Or had it never been,
We'd never have had our Lady,
Who is heaven's queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was!
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias!

So blessed be the time
The apple was taken thus!
It is therefore that we sing,
Deo gratias!

THE SIXTH LESSON

Zephaniah 3: 14-18

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Descant

2 Wak-ened by the sol-lemn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol-lemn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
 5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;
 4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON The Reverend Alex Montes-Vela, Missioner for Congregational Vitality

Please stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, page 358

**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.**

- Reader* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."
For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai (*pronounced "Kaye"*), and Hector, our Bishops; for Hannah, Luz and Dale, our clergy; for all who minister in this place; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For [the Right Reverend Nathan Ingen, and the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea](#); for [Santa Maria Virgen, Houston](#); [St. Andrew's, Houston](#); and [St. Christopher's, Houston](#); and for [Sylvia Drew, Tony Huffman, and the Trinity Garden Club](#), let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For Joseph our president, Kamala our vice-president, Greg our governor, Lina our county judge, Sylvester our mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For [Bill, Nick, Bob, Dale, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Donna, Jason, Carol, Clyde, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Monica, Debbie, Wally, Dorothy, Daniel, Gladys, and Brenda](#), let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. Remembering [especially Don Olfen, Robert Vaughan, Phil Turley, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, and all victims of gun violence](#), may we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For all the blessings of this life, especially for [Greg and Benjamin](#) as they celebrate their birthdays, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader* That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People To thee, O Lord our God.

CONFESSIO

BCP, page 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

ABSOLUTION

BCP, page 360

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People Amen.

The children who attended Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will return at this point so that they can participate with their families in the Holy Communion.

Please stand as able.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DEDICATION OF CHRISMONS AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

With special thanks to Catherine Reed.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please be seated

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

OFFERING

Online Giving is available through AccessACS.

Go to www.trinitymidtown.org 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**. Be sure to type heartofmidtown with no spaces, or autocorrect may insert information about a different church. The prompt will ask for a credit card number which can be kept on file for future contributions.



This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from the door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

And at this season of the year
Our blest redeemer did appear,
And here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

The first thing that I will relate,
That God at first did man create;
The next thing which to you I tell
Woman was made with him to dwell

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run:
That he'd redeem us by his Son.

Please stand as able.

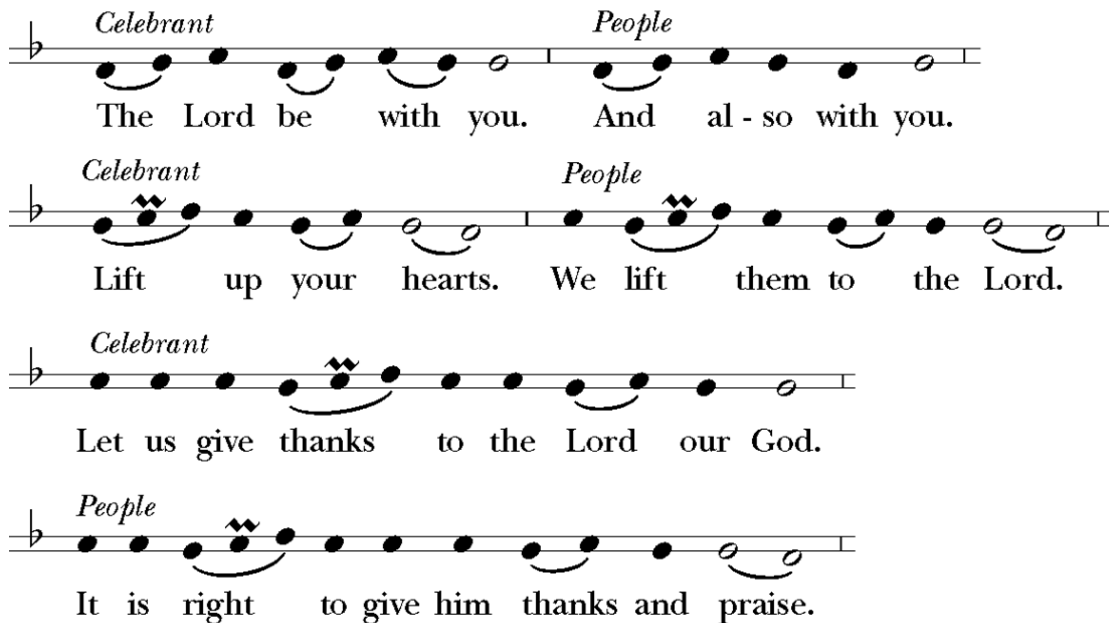
HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION 74, stanza 3

Valet will ich dir geben

3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
things are in his hand, all a - ges and all
peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!

GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B

SURSUM CORDA S120



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you." followed by a bar line, then "And al - so with you." for the People. The second staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts." followed by a bar line, then "We lift them to the Lord." for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is right to give him thanks and praise." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with notes and rests on a five-line staff.

Celebrant
The Lord be with you. *People*
And al - so with you.

Celebrant
Lift up your hearts. *People*
We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Harold Darke
Communion Service in A Minor

(sung by the choir)

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 or kneel, as able.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

AMEN.

The Celebrant then continues

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, page 364

**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.**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
 there - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

BCP, page 338

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

AGNUS DEI

Harold Darke
 Communion Service in A Minor

(sung by the choir)

- O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
 have mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
 have mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
 grant us thy peace.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to come participate in Holy Communion. If for any reason you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms across your chest for a blessing.

Our tradition is to receive both bread and wine, sharing in the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips, or you may "intinct" by dipping the wafer into the chalice. If you prefer, you may also receive the bread only: After consuming the wafer, simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine.

If you do not wish to "intinct" from the common cup, there will be a third chalice, for intinction only, available in the baptistery. If you wish to partake of this chalice, please proceed to the baptistery after receiving a wafer from the priest .



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.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow
Snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter
Long ago.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk
And a manger full of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give him, —
Give my heart.

The Celebrant distributes a communion kit saying,

Celebrant On behalf of God and Trinity Parish, we send forth these holy gifts that those who will be visited may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please kneel or stand as able.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Presider May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us
in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free
from all sin.

People Amen.

Presider May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make
you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People Amen.

Presider May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second
Advent be rewarded with unending life.

People Amen.

Presider And the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be
with you always.

People Amen.



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say -

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

DISMISSAL

Officiant

People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland

Johann Sebastian Bach

Advent is the first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for "coming". The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory."

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall
immediately following this service.*

*Those who wish to listen to the closing Voluntary
are invited to come and sit in the Choir.*

*Service music printed from The Hymnal ©1982
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*We would like to thank Dana Gannon and Michael Tabert
for hosting this morning's coffee hour.*

*Please note that all Sundays in the new year from January 7 are open
to host (part/all) coffee hour..*

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or online, or scan this QR code:



To order Christmas flowers, please scan this QR code:





THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OF TRINITY THE HEART OF MIDTOWN

December 17, 2023 – Third Sunday in Advent, Christ the King, Year B

Trinity Episcopal Church | www.trinitymidtown.org
1015 Holman @ Main | 713-528-4100

Sunday In-Person Services
8:00 am and 12:30 pm (Chapel)
10:30 am (Historic Church)

Upcoming Advent Dates:

- 12/17: Third Sunday of Advent, Lessons and Carols and Chrismon Tree Dedication
- 12/20: Tidings of Comfort Service (Morrow Chapel, 6pm)
- 12/24: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Epiphany Blessing Kits Available, 11 am service
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Services, 6:00pm (Carols), 6:30pm (Rite II Choral Eucharist), 10:00pm (Carols), 10:30pm (Rite I Choral Eucharist)
- 12/25: Christmas Day, 11am Jazz/Gospel Service
- 12/31: First Sunday after Christmas, 11am Combined Service

[Information online at: https://www.trinitymidtown.org/advent2023/](https://www.trinitymidtown.org/advent2023/)

Vestry Nominations – Accepting Submissions until Dec. 31st

The Vestry of Trinity is elected by the congregation to oversee the governance of the church in the areas of finance, facilities, stewardship and the calling of a rector when needed. To serve on the Vestry, one must be at least 18 years of age, a confirmed communicant, regular in worship, a member for at least a year, and a financial supporter of the parish. The nominating committee, which is composed of four outgoing Vestry members, will create a slate of nominees. The election will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting in January 2024. If you think you may be called to this ministry, please reach out to Michele White at michelereenee12@gmail.com.

Chrismon Tree Dedication – Dec. 17th, 10:30 service

We invite you to join us during the 10:30am service for the dedication of our Chrismon tree. Many members and friends have worked diligently over the past year on new ornaments for the tree. We will have a special guide for all the new contributions. If you are unable to attend the service, we invite you to stop by and view the tree when you are able. Thank you to Catherine Reed who spearheaded this project!

Christmas Caroling at Trinity – Dec. 17th, 2–4pm

Gather at the church’s Holman Street foyer at 2 pm to carpool to three locations to bring cheer to some of our homebound and limited mobility parishioners. Caroling booklets will be provided– but bring treats to share. It is awesome if you can sing like the choir, but also wonderful if you just make a joyful noise.

Tidings of Comfort Service – Dec. 20th, 6pm Morrow Chapel

This Liturgy also known as “Blue Christmas,” or the “Longest Night,” is held on the Winter Solstice. This service recognizes that not everyone is rejoicing during this season. We will have prayers appropriate to the season that acknowledge our struggles during this time. We are pleased to welcome back the Rev. Cannon Dr. Henry Atkins as our guest preacher. This service will be available in person only.

Phil Turley Funeral – Dec. 22nd, 10am

All are welcome to remember and celebrate the life of parishioner Phil Turley on Friday, December 22nd at 10am. Join us for a Rite 2 communion service, with interment in the columbarium after and a simple reception in the Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, Dec 17th, 2023

- 7:30am – 1:30pm Nursery Open
- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Sunday Meditations (Zoom)
- 9:30 am Education Hour for All
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church)
- 11:45 am Coffee Hour and Sandwich Makers (Fellowship Hall)
- 12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (Chapel)
- 8:00 pm Compline (Facebook)

Monday, December 18th, 2023

- 12:00 pm Yoga w/Saba (Atrium 2)
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday, December 19th, 2023

- 12:00pm The Listening Post
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday, December 20th, 2023

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Weekly)
- 12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)
- 6:00 pm Tidings of Comfort Service (Chapel)
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 21st, 2023

- 12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

Friday, December 22nd, 2023

- 10:00am Phil Turley Funeral
- 12:00 pm Church Offices Close

Saturday, December 23rd, 2023

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

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Services, 6:00pm (Carols), 6:30pm (Rite II Choral Eucharist), 10:00pm (Carols), 10:30pm (Rite I Choral Eucharist)
12/25: Christmas Day, 11am Jazz/Gospel Service



PRAYERS

Our custom is to read aloud each week the names of those who request our prayers. We also remember in our Prayer Chain and Bulletin those who desire prayers. Please email to keep us informed. For information or comments about prayer names, please contact the Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero. If you would like to participate as a member of the prayer chain, please contact Norma Cooper.

Bill, Nick, Bob, Dale, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Donna, Jason, Carol, Clyde, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Monica, Debby, Wally, Dorothy, Daniel, Gladys, Brenda, Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Jill, Stephe, Emily, Van, Dick, Victims of Violence, Ric, Barbara, Sylvia, Joyce, Bob, David, Robert, Susan, Cindy, Patty, Dana, Emilia, Gaby, Florence, Carolyn, Rick, Charles, Harrison, Kathy, Erma, Mary, Chris, Jane, Mark, Eliana, Guillermo, Holly, Ray, Barbara, Howard, Claudie, Romy, Gary, Yvonne, Bryce, Rose, Bart, and Marie.

For the faithful departed:

Denise Ray, Don Olson, Robert Vaughn, Phil Turley, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine and Ukraine and all victims of gun violence.

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

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

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

Ryan Mire, Parish Administrator
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Lauren Santerre, Parish Life Coordinator
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Alex Jones Organist/Choirmaster
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Pat Laubach, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@trinitymidtown.org

Carol Turley, Membership Secretary
membership@trinitymidtown.org

Larry Laubach, Treasurer
finance@trinitymidtown.org

*Please note we will never ask you for money or gifts via email. Scams are circulating again, so please be aware and cautious.

Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour

If you would like to make a flower dedication, you can sign up at www.trinitymidtown.org/flower-ministry/.

The next available dates: December 31st, 2023 and January 7th and 14th.



Sign-ups for coffee hour hosts are available, please sign up online to volunteer [here](#) or scan QR code below. For questions or further information please click [here](#) to contact Jamie Chambers

Next available dates: Jan 7th, 14th, and 21st.



Greg Lomasang, Benjamin Dayton Gonzales

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 3 pm
Friday 9 am – 1 pm

If you have building concerns please email parishadministrator@trinitymidtown.org.



@trinitychurchouston



@trinityepiscopalmidtown



@trinityepiscopalchurch



Let's Connect | www.trinitymidtown.org



For more information on annual giving visit www.trinitymidtown.org/give.

December 17, 2022 – Advent 3 (B)
Third Week of Advent: Journeying with Community

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that includes the community. The witness of Zechariah and Elizabeth who bring infant John to the Temple to be circumcised reminds us of the importance of our faith community to sustaining the Way of Love. Just as the community did for John’s family, communities provide a place for discernment, sometimes challenging us and other times affirming us. Communities celebrate and mark important moments along the journey. For more Advent resources related to the Way of Love, visit episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. There, you’ll find links to the full Advent curriculum *Journeying the Way of Love*, as well as *Living the Way of Love in Community*, a nine-session curriculum for use anytime.



Sunday, December 17
WORSHIP

Imagine the faces you’d like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.

Monday, December 18
TURN

Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God’s help, to make those changes.

Tuesday, December 19
LEARN

Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah’s speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.

Wednesday, December 20
PRAY

Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in *The Book of Common Prayer*. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special

time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.

Thursday, December 21
BLESS

We know that angels are God’s special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God’s story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.

Friday, December 22
GO

Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God’s presence in your community.

Saturday, December 23
REST

Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.

Sunday, December 24
REST

The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.

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.

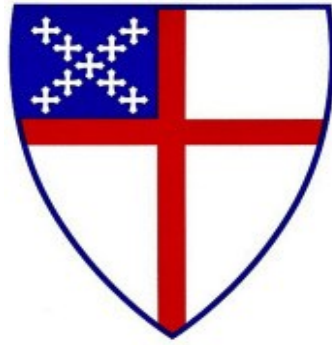
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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





STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pelayo Parlade, *Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble*
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WEAPONS POLICY:

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.05, PENAL CODE (CRIMINAL TRESPASS), A PERSON MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A FIREARM.

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.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

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