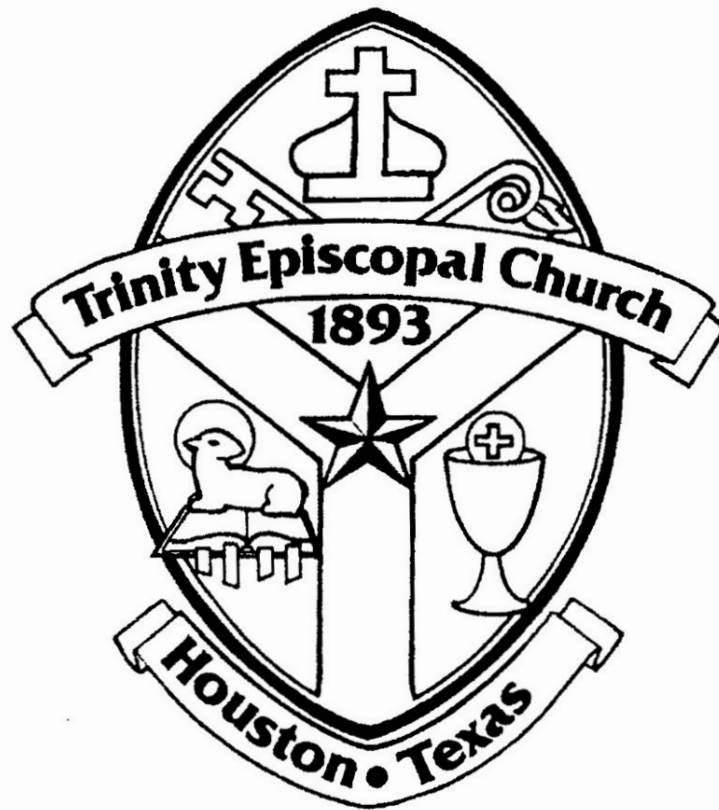


# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023  
12:30 p.m.



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

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

For more information, please visit our website:

[www.trinitymidtown.org](http://www.trinitymidtown.org)

For questions about how to connect with us, please email  
[connections@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:connections@trinitymidtown.org)

**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.

## A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

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

## 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*

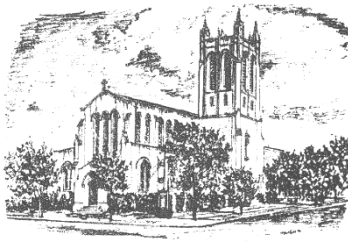
## THE TRINITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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

## SERVING TODAY

Acolyte: Marcy Antiuk  
Usher: Andy Durham  
Lector: Mary Ann Collier  
Prayers: Jim Castro  
Audio Visual: Harold Robertson  
Online Greeter: Pam Lawson  
Altar Guild: Linda Davenport  
Vestry of the Day: Ann McCoy

The 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.



Please Silence  
Your Cell Phone



Follow us on:

Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchhouston>

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

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



# The Liturgy of the Word

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Please stand as able.*

Presider Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

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

Presider Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

I Want to Be Ready

LEVAS, page 7

I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y.

I want to be read - y To walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John. **Fine**

1. John said that Je - ru - sa - lem was four-square,
2. When Pe - ter was preach - ing at Pen - te - cost,

Walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.

1. I hope, good Lord, I'll meet you there,
2. O he was filled with the Ho - ly Ghost,

Walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John. O **D.C.**

OPENING PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son; grant that those who proclaim your word may so guide our feet into the way of peace, that we may stand with confidence before him when he comes in his glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer .

**People Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

*Please stand as able*

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Presider The Holy Gospel according to John.

**People Praise and glory to God.**

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.

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

*Please be seated*

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

*Please stand as able*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Response**



Let us pray for the preservation of the earth. We give thanks for the beauty and abundance of the earth.  
 Give us and all peoples grace to live in harmony with your creation, wisdom and generosity in our use of its bounty.  
 Let us pray for peace and shared prosperity, and for the end of systemic racism that divides us.  
 We pray for leaders to serve the common good: Give wisdom to those who have responsibility and authority in every land, especially Joseph, our president; Kamala, our vice-president; Greg, our governor; Lina, our county judge; Sylvester, our mayor; and 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 Right Reverend Nathan Ingen, and the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.](#)

In the diocesan cycle of prayer for [Santa Maria Virgen, Houston; St. Andrew's, Houston; and St. Christopher's, Houston](#). In the ministry cycle of prayer for [Sylvia Drew, Tony Huffman, and the Trinity Garden Club](#). For the peace and unity of the Church of God.

We give thanks for the good news of salvation for all people. Strengthen us for our work in the world, empower your Church to proclaim the gospel in service, word and sacrament.

Unite in the truth all who confess your name, that we may live together in love to your glory.

Let us pray for ourselves and our community. We give thanks for the fellowship of the communities in which we live and work, especially Trinity Church.

We pray for our bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai (*pronounced "Kaye"*), and Hector, our Bishops; for Hannah, Luz and Dale our clergy; and for all who minister in this place.

We commend to your keeping ourselves and each other, our families, those with whom we work and learn, our neighbors and our friends. Enable us by your Spirit to live in love for you and for one another.

### **Response**

We give thanks that you are the God who brings mercy and wholeness. Comfort and heal, we pray, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble, especially for those we now name: [Bill, Nick, Bob, Dale, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Donna, Jason, Carol, Clyde, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Monica, Debbie, Wally, Dorothy, Daniel, Gladys, and Brenda](#).

[Heavenly Father, our neighbor has nowhere to call home: help us be aware. Our neighbor needs love and community: help us be active. Our neighbor is crying out for justice: help us be adamant to see an end to homelessness.](#)

Let us give thanks for the faithful departed, [especially for Denise Ray, Don Olson, Robert Vaughan, Phil Turley, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, 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 [Greg and Benjamin](#), who are celebrating their birthdays.

### **Response**

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

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

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

## Final Response

When we pray dear God hear our pra-yers Lord we  
know You are al - ways the - re On You  
Lord we cast ev - ery ca - re Oh  
Lo - rd hear us when Oh Lo - rd hear us when Oh  
Lo - rd hear us when we pray

### THE CONFESSION

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

God forgives and heals us.

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

Presider God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself.

### THE PEACE

Presider Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace.

**People Who breaks down the walls that divide.**

Presider The peace of God be always with you.

**People Praise to Christ who makes us one.**

MUSIC AT THE PEACE

Mercy, Mercy!  
*Please be seated.*

Cannonball Adderley

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN



# The Liturgy of the Table

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

## OFFERING

**Online Giving** is available through AccessACS.

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

**Texting.** Send the message **heartofmidtown** to **73256**. Be sure to type heartofmidtown with no spaces, or autocorrect may insert information about a different church. The prompt will ask for a credit card number which can be kept on file for future contributions.



## THE OFFERTORY

When We All Get to Heaven

Eliza Hewitt/Emily Wilson

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand as able.*

Presider The Lord is here.

**People God's Spirit is with us.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son. You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image.

In your Son you suffered with us and for us, offering us the healing riches of salvation and calling us to freedom and holiness. In his coming among us, the day of our deliverance has dawned, and through him you will make all things new when he comes in power and majesty to judge the world.

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,



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.**

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*Please come forward to receive communion from a priest in front of the altar. If you wish to partake of the chalice, you may do so by intinction. Intinction is done by dipping a host into the wine, and is completely optional. If you prefer, it is perfectly fine to continue receiving the host only. If you are unable to come forward for communion, it will be brought to you in your pew.*



*We offer a gluten-free bread option for those with dietary restrictions who wish to receive communion. To receive a gluten free wafer, please clasp your hands with palms facing each other when you come forward for communion.*

## 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.

Come by here— Lord, come by here,—

Come by here— Lord, come by here,— Come by here— Lord,

come by here,— O Lord, come by here.—

2. Someone needs you Lord, come by here.

3. Send a blessing Lord, come by here.

## 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.**

#### 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**

#### CLOSING HYMN

#### Like a Child



1. Like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a
2. Like a child we will meet, rag - ged clothes, dirt - y feet, like a
3. Like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a



child and a friend, Je - sus comes. Like a child we may find claim - ing  
child on the street, Je - sus comes. Like a child we once knew com - ing  
child here to stay, Je - sus comes. Like a child we re - ceive all that



heart, soul, and mind, like a child strong and kind, Je - sus comes.  
back in - to view, like a child born a - new, Je - sus comes.  
love can con - ceive, like a child we be - lieve, Je - sus comes.

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.*

*Service music printed from Lift Every Voice and Sing II,  
An African American Hymnal © 1993  
Church Pension Fund. Used by permission.  
Additional licensing from OneLicense.net #A-705504.*

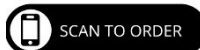
Advent is the first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for “coming”. The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity,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

*Please consider signing up to help livestream this service once a month.  
Training will be provided.*

*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](http://www.trinitymidtown.org)  
1015 Holman @ Main | 713-528-4100

### Sunday In–Person Services

8:00 am and 12:30 pm (Chapel)

10:30 am (Historic Church)

### 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](mailto: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**  
associatrector@trinitymidtown.org

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

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

**Lauren Santerre, Parish Life Coordinator**  
plc@trinitymidtown.org

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

**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/](http://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.



*Happy Birthday!*

**Greg Lomasang, Benjamin Dayton Gonzales**



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

#### Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 3 pm

Friday 9 am – 1 pm

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



For more information on annual giving visit [www.trinitymidtown.org/give](http://www.trinitymidtown.org/give).



## BULLETIN INSERTS

**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](http://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.

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## 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.

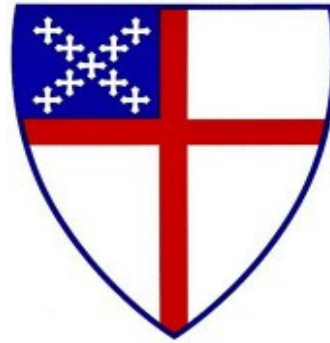
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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