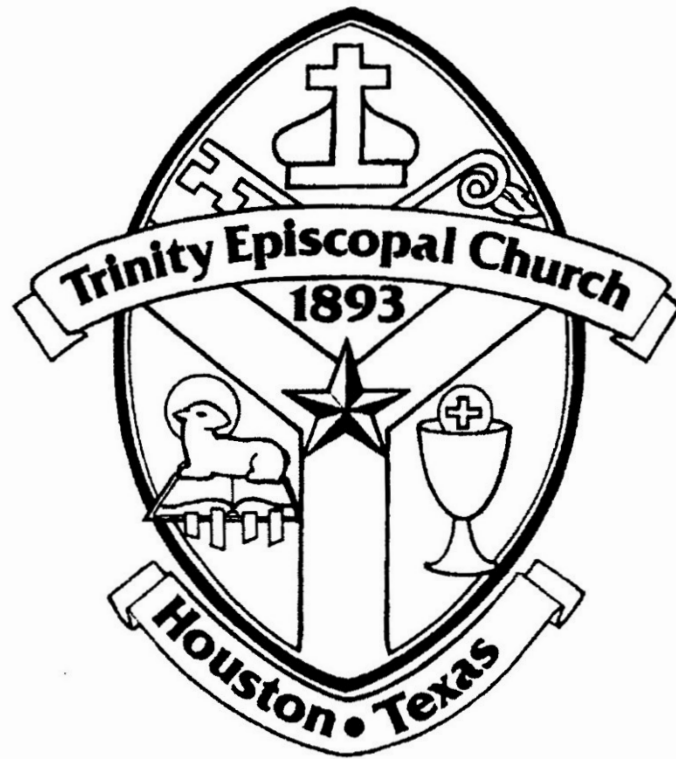


CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2023

11:00 a.m.



The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector
The Reverend Canon Dr. Henry L. Atkins, Jr., Guest Preacher

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

For questions about how to connect with us, please email
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*

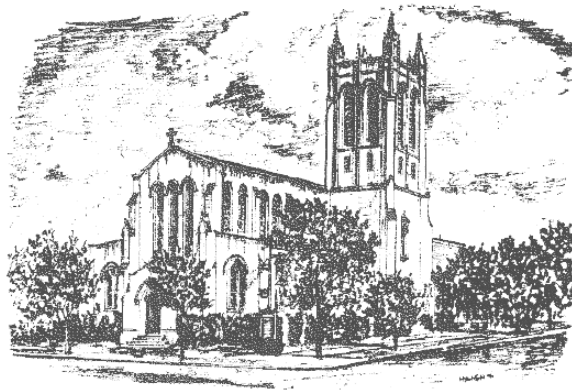
Samantha Rainman, *Assistant Clerk of the Vestry*

THE TRINITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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

SERVING TODAY

Lector: Caroline Levander
Prayers: Marcy Antiuk
LEM: Harold Robertson
Acolyte: Mark Goza
Usher: Bob Davenport, David Theis
Audio Visual: Jeremy Velasquez
Online Greeter: Pam Lawson
Altar Guild: Mark Goza, Shelby Bradley



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The Liturgy of the Word

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Please stand as able.

Presider Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord: Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

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

Presider Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye,
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing, all
3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus,

O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold Him,
ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n! Word of the Fa - ther,

born the King of an - gels!
glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore Him; O come, let us
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

a - dore Him; O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.
Almighty God, you gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and be born of the Virgin Mary; grant that we, who are born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever.

People Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52: 7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1: 1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

Presider The Holy Gospel according to John.

People Praise and glory to God!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Presider This is the Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to Christ, the Word.

Please be seated

SERMON The Reverend Canon Dr. Henry L. Atkins, Jr., Guest Preacher

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

Please stand as able

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 we pray Lo-rd hear us when we pray

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 Most Reverend Brent Harry Alawas, and the Episcopal Church in the Philippines](#); for [St. Francis', Houston](#); [St. John the Divine, Houston](#); and [St. Martin's, Houston](#); and for [the Wednesday Healing Service](#). 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, 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 Chester Joseph Stasney, Jr., Denise Ray, 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 [Colette, Christine, Stephen, Abigail, Ellora, and Tony](#), 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 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 Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

1. The vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy, the
 2. The an - gels sang when the ba - by was born, the
 3. The shep - herds came where the ba - by was born, the
 4. The Wise Men came where the ba - by was born, the

vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy, the
 an - gels sang when the ba - by was born, the
 shep - herds came where the ba - by was born, the
 Wise Men came where the ba - by was born, the



vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy,
 an - gels sang when the ba - by was born, } and they
 shep - herds came where the ba - by was born,
 Wise Men came where the ba - by was born,

Refrain



say that his name is Je - sus. He come from the glo - ry,



he come from the glo - rious king - dom. He come from the



glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom. Oh,



yes! be - liev - er! Oh, yes! be - liev - er! He come from the



glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom.

Please be seated.

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 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

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts/George Frideric Handel



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
as the curse is found, far as the curse is
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, joy, found, love, and re-peat, far and won-ders, heaven, re-peat, far as won-ders, and heaven, re-peat, far as won-ders, and na-ture the sound-ing of his love, sing. joy. found. love.

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.

Above all we give you thanks and praise for your grace in sending Jesus Christ, not for any merit of our own but when we had turned away from you. In him the light which shines for all has come into the world, and he has become one with us that we may become one with you.

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,

A - men, A - men,

Lord - y, good Lord - y,

1. See the lit - tle ba - by

A - men, A - men, A - men.

1. Ly - ing in a man - ger On ___ Christ - mas morn - ing.
 2. Talk - ing to the eld - ers, They ___ mar - v'ld at His wis - dom.
 3. Pray - ing to his fa - ther As ___ Ju - das be - trays Him.
 4. Dy - ing for us sin - ners but He rose ___ on ___ Eas - ter.

A - men, A - men,

1.,2.,3. | 4.

2. See Him in the tem-ple,
3. See Him in the gar-den,
4. See Him there at Cal-v'ry,

A - men, A - men, A - men. 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

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

COMMUNION HYMN

What Child Is This?

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
 guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
 bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

2

Why lies he in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear, for sinners here
 The silent word is pleading.
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
 The Cross be borne for me for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made Flesh,
 The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
 Come peasant King to own him;
 The King of kings salvation brings,
 Let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 The Virgin sings her lullaby,
 Joy, joy for Christ is born,
 The Babe, the Son of Mary.

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

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

Amen.

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

Amen.

Go, tell it on the moun - tain o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born. **Fine**

1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth,
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

1. Be - hold through - out the heav - ens there shown a ho - ly light.____
 2. Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth.____
 3. And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.____ **D.C.**

THE DISMISSAL

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

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

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and Lift Every Voice and Sing II,
An African American Hymnal © 1993
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Christmas Flower Dedications



The High Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and In Loving Memory of

*Ina Yvonne Porter and Robert Earl Porter, Jr. by Libby Tsubai
John Cloud by Mary Cloud
Burndette Babin by Norma and Charles Cooper*

In Thanksgiving for

*The health and happiness of my family and friends by Toni Longino
Our Clergy, the Reverends Hannah, Luz, and Dale by the Vestry
Our Church family by Stan Tubbs and Randy Goswick*

The Side Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and In Loving Memory of

*Florence Talbot Cooley by her sisters Mary Cooley Craddock, Susan Cooley,
Louise Cooley Davies and Helen Cooley Fraser*

In Thanksgiving for

Olivia and Ed Adams by Siva and Teddy Adams

The Wreaths and Greenery are given to the glory of God and In Loving Memory of

*Cleo Feltenberger by Robert Feltenberger and David Marsh
Jean Marsh by Robert Feltenberger and David Marsh
Lois Wright by Robert Feltenberger and David Marsh
Helen Lueders by Robert Feltenberger and David Marsh*

In Thanksgiving for

*My wonderful husband Kevin Kirby by Caroline Levander
Lucy Treadwell and Henry Atkins and our children Magaly, Sara, Samuel, and Daniel
by Hannah Atkins Romero and Elmer Romero Chavarría
The Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero and her family by Mark Goza
The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes and her family by Mark Goza
The Reverend Dale Klitzke and his family by Mark Goza
Alex Jones and the Trinity Choir by Mark Goza
April Sloan Hubert, Pelayo Parlade and the Trinity Jazz Ensemble by Mark Goza
Ryan Mire, Lauren Santerre, Pat Laubach, and all Trinity staff and volunteers by Mark Goza*

Flowers in the Columbarium

*The flowers in the Columbarium are given to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Mike Deily by Linnet Deily,*



Christmas Flower Dedications



The poinsettias are given to the glory of God and In Loving Memory of

*Jeanne Devine by Joanne and Ron Starbuck
Lucille Dittimore by Joanne and Ron Starbuck
Gerard Lepore by Joanne and Ron Starbuck
Mary and Rocco Lepore by Joanne and Ron Starbuck
Edna and Robert Starbuck by Joanne and Ron Starbuck
Robert David Vaughan and Jane Vaughan by Yvonne Meyer
Ann, Jack and Dennis Roach by Karen Roach
Florence Talbot Cooley by her sisters Mary Cooley Craddock, Susan Cooley,
Louise Cooley Davies, and Helen Cooley Fraser
Stephen Wentland by Wendy Wentland
Merle Moore by Donna Cloteaux
Jean and Edgar Marston by Graeme and Edgar Marston
Alice Baker and John Meyers by Graeme and Edgar Marston
My mother Churmeay McClellan by Theresa McClellan
My father Franck McClellan by Theresa McClellan
My sister Connie McClellan by Theresa McClellan
Chester Stasney, Sr. by Leah Stasney
Chester Stasney, Jr. by Leah Stasney
Pearlie Martin by Leah Stasney
Phil Turley by Carol Turley
Patricia Moss Braithwaite, Erine Blackman, Michele Blackman, Marsha Reed, Pat Jung,
Dennis Braithwaite, and Kenneth Davis by Pamela and Timothy Lawson
Tio and Tia Bob and Joan Ransom by Ana and Alex Bruton
Tio Purdy Jordan by Ana and Alex Bruton
Barbara H. Jones by Shelby Bradley
Allen Doering by Shelby Bradley
Victims of drugs, guns, and war by Shelby Bradley*

In Thanksgiving for

*Our church family by Stan Tubbs and Randy Goswick
Trinity Choir by Carol Turley
The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero by Carol Turley
The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes by Carol Turley
Steve Turley and Family by Carol Turley
Gwendolyn Harrison and Family by Carol Turley
Trinity Church by Bob and Carol Wells
My brother Bryan M. Jones by Shelby Bradley
My cousins Sandra R. Clark and Pamela Greere by Shelby Bradley*

In Honor of

*Marie Stasney by Leah Stasney
Our mothers, Mary Merullo and Jeanette Zemanek by John Merullo and George Zemanek
Those serving in our Armed Forces, educating our youth, and practicing medical services
In this country by Shelby Bradley*

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.

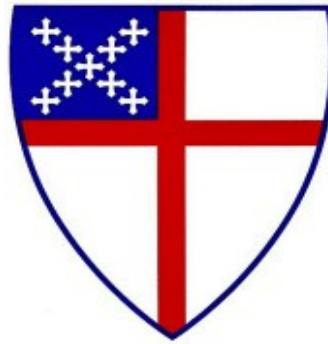
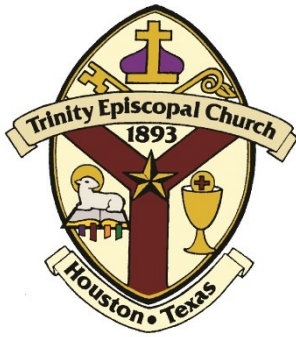
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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