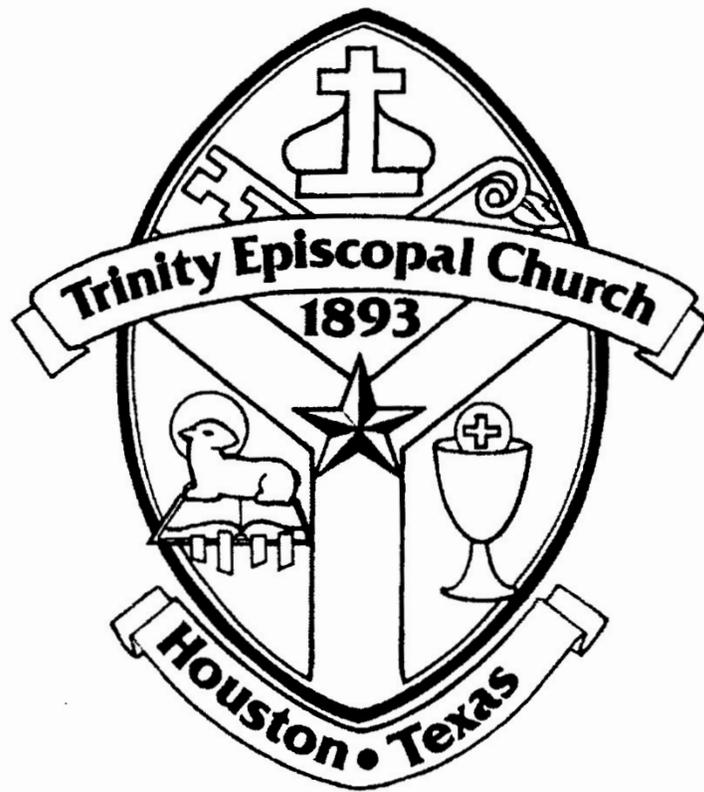


# SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 3, 2021  
10:30 a.m.



The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector  
The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Curate  
The Reverend Canon Dr. Henry L. Atkins, Jr., Theologian in Residence

Collin Boothby, Organist and Choirmaster

***Making God's Presence Real  
By Sharing Christ's Life-Changing Love***

## WELCOME TO TRINITY CHURCH

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church! We're glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We follow the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) to guide our worship. In this leaflet, you'll find everything you need to follow along printed.

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

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

<https://forms.gle/dvuRW2FUDny2hpRz5>

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.trinitymidtown.org](http://www.trinitymidtown.org)

For questions about how to connect with us, please email  
Collin Boothby, Associate for Connections Ministries at:  
[connections@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:connections@trinitymidtown.org)

**Facebook Live Stream.** Please be advised that all services, including this 10:30 a.m. service, are live streamed through our Trinity Facebook Page and YouTube channels.

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Children's activity and worship bulletins are available for download from our website under the "Worship—Bulletins" tab, or following this link:

<https://www.trinitymidtown.org/childrens-bulletins/>

### VESTRY

Amy Luke, *Senior Warden*  
John Escoto, *Junior Warden*

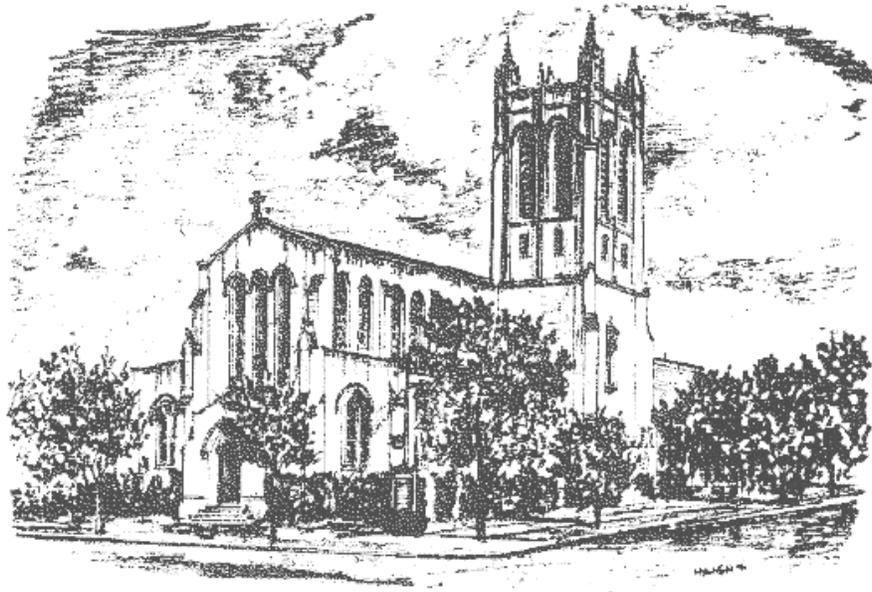
Shelby Bradley	Andy Durham
Jim Castro	Debbie Owens
John Cloud	Carl Thompson
Norma Cooper	David Theis
Terri DiRaddo	Libby Tsubai

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

## LAY MINISTERS SERVING TODAY

*Cantor:* Tony Sessions  
*Lector:* Samantha Rainman



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# HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

VOLUNTARY

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. John Rasley

WELCOME

*Please stand as able.*

HYMN IN PROCESSION 93

*Angels, from the realms of glory*

Regent Square

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*  
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
ye have seen his na - tal star:  
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, page 355

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

**People** **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, page 355

*Officiant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

**People** **Amen.**

CANTICLE

*Gloria in excelsis*

*Read in unison.*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

PSALM 84

Quam dilecta  
*Alternately by whole verse.*

BCP, page 707

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;**
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O Lord of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart

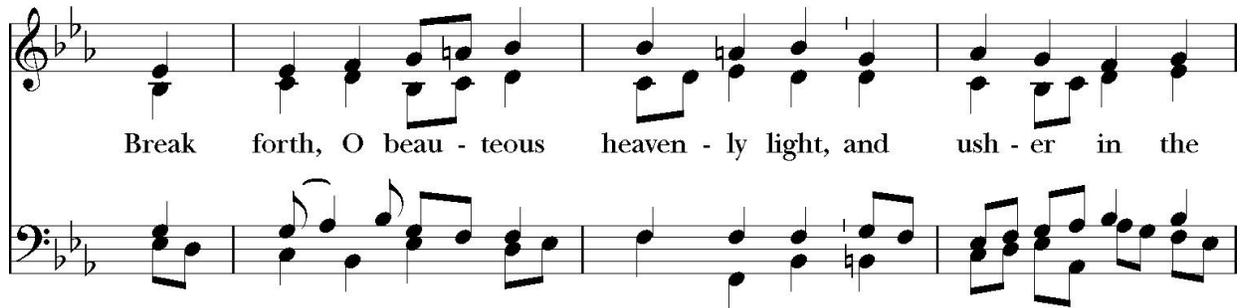
enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

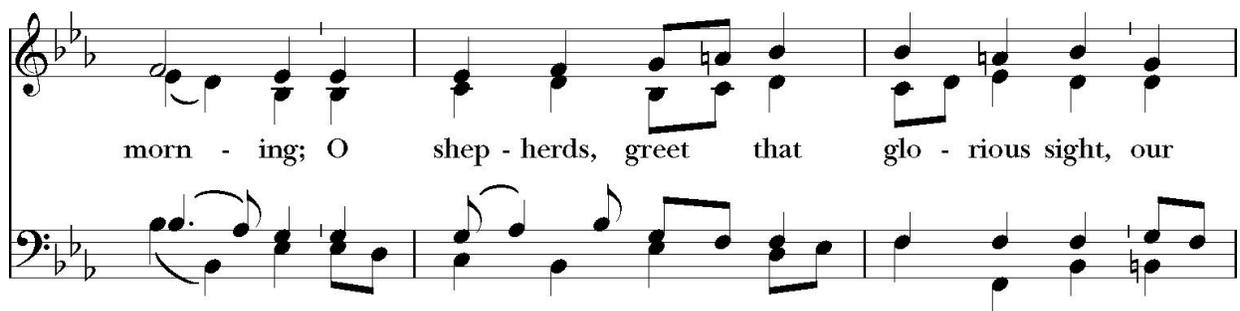
**People** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as able.*

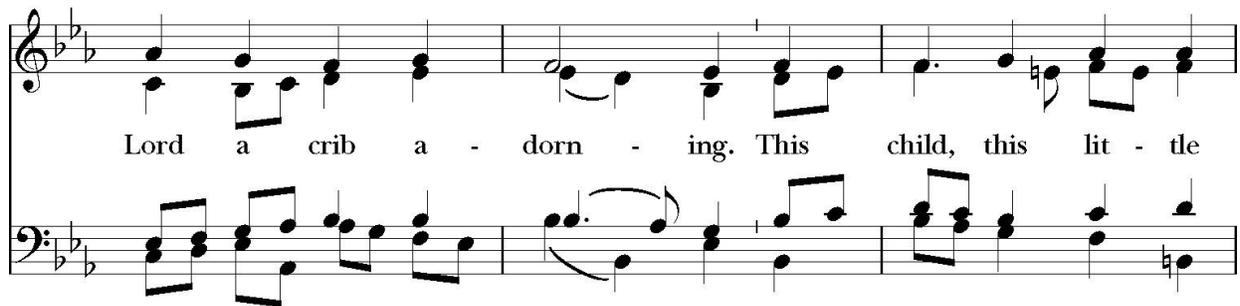
HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE 91 *Break forth, O beautiful heavenly light* Ermuntre dich



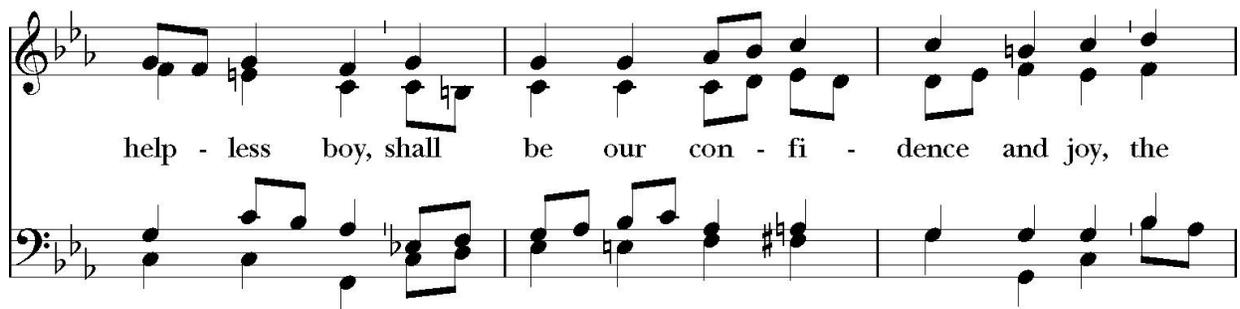
Break forth, O beau - teous heaven - ly light, and ush - er in the



morn - ing; O shep - herds, greet that glo - rious sight, our



Lord a crib a - dorn - ing. This child, this lit - tle



help - less boy, shall be our con - fi - dence and joy, the



power of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.

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

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

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

*Officiant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

SERMON The Reverend Canon Dr. Henry L. Atkins, Jr., Theologian in Residence

*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.**

*We invite you to offer any prayers you wish to share in the comment section.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Most Reverend Mouneer Anis and the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for All Saints', Austin; Calvary, Bastrop; and Christ Church, Cedar Park. In the ministry cycle of prayer for Fabian Berrios and the Youth Ministry. We pray for our bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Hector, Jeff and Kai, our Bishops; and for Hannah, Luz and Henry our clergy.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy  
**People** **Hear our prayer.**

For Donald, our president; Greg, our governor; Sylvester, our mayor; Lina, our county judge; Joe, our president-elect; Kamala, our vice-president-elect; and the legislatures and courts. We pray for the end of systemic racism: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy  
**People** **Hear our prayer.**

For teachers and all front-line workers who are courageously assisting others during this pandemic; Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy  
**People** **Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for your servants in every age, especially for these who are celebrating their birthdays: Benjamin, Nancy, Sheree, Joyce, Vickie, Pam, Richard, Brian, Bob, Colleen, and Gary. Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy  
**People** **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially for those we now name: Oliver, Eula, Bill, Jocelyn, Charles, Gloria, Joe, Ramona, Etsu, Pat, Lee, Carolyn, Letha, Susan, David, Doug, Alison, Brett, Marisa, Marisa's student, Van, Randy, and Andrea. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy  
**People** **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Juan Castillo, Doyle Perkinson, Tommy Lakes, Jr., Bob Kirby, and all who have perished by contracting the coronavirus, that your will for them may be fulfilled: and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy  
**People** **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant concludes*

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that his light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

THE BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

*The Celebrant offers this blessing:*

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this Chrismon tree, arrayed in splendor with handmade Chrismon ornaments, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

VIRTUAL 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, or click:

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=156477>

**Texting.** Send the message **heartofmidtown** to **73256**. The prompt will ask for a credit card number which can be kept on file for future contributions.

OFFERTORY HYMN 97

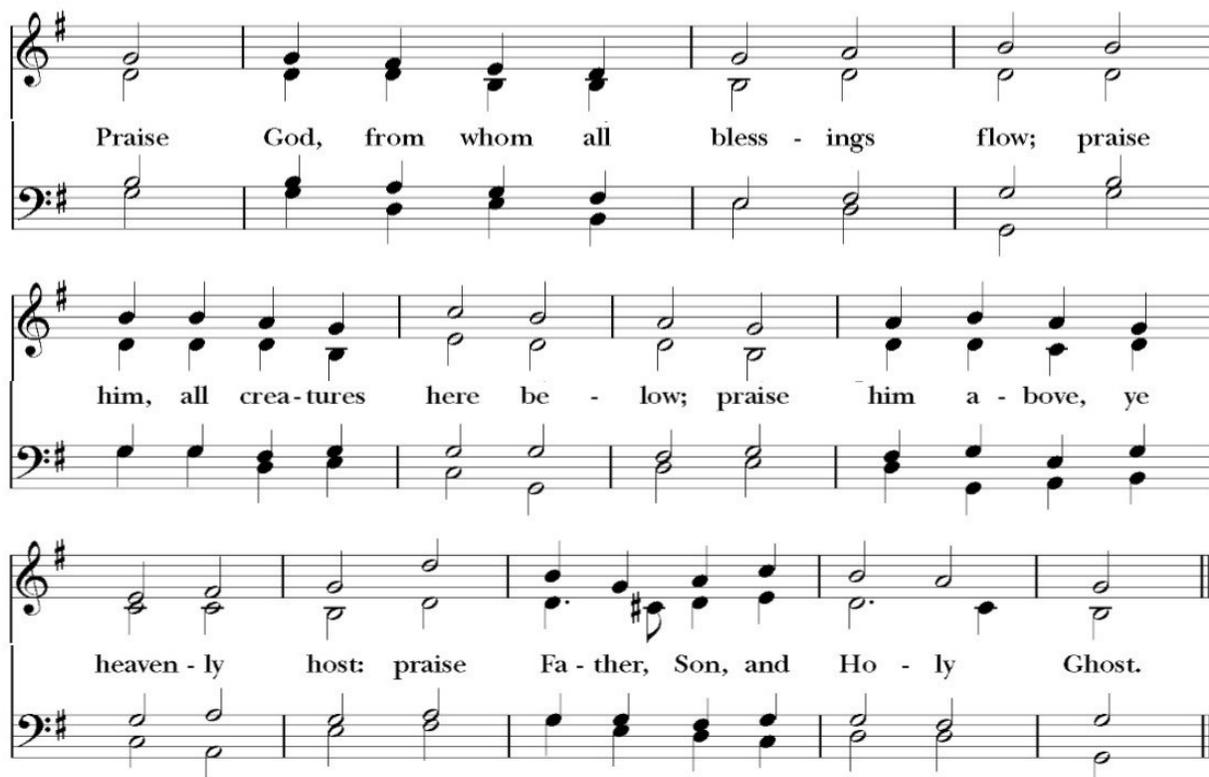
Dost Thou in a Manger Lie

Dies est lætitiæ

Dost thou in a manger lie, who hast all created,  
stretching infant hands on high, Savior, long awaited?  
If a monarch, where thy state? Where thy court on thee to wait?  
Scepter, crown, and sphere? Here no regal pomp we see,  
nought but need and penury: why thus cradled here?

"For the world a love supreme brought me to this stable;  
all creation to redeem I alone am able.  
By this lowly birth of mine, sinner, riches shall be thine,  
matchless gifts and free; willingly this yoke I take,  
and this sacrifice I make, heaping joys for thee."

Christ we praise with voices bold, laud and honor raising;  
for these mercies manifold join the hosts in praising:  
Father, glory be to thee for the wondrous charity  
of thy Son, our Lord. Better witness to thy worth,  
purer praise than ours on earth angels' songs afford.



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise  
 him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP, page 367

SURSUM CORDA

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

*Here a Proper Preface is said.*

*Celebrant* 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

**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.**

*Please kneel or stand as able.*

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;**

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.

**People      AMEN.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People      Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

AGNUS DEI

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**People have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**People have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**People grant us your peace.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

BCP, page 364

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*For the duration of the current pandemic we will offer communion in one kind, the bread only. The priest will offer to those present wafers spaced apart on a bread plate. Please take one without touching the others and consume it as you return to your seat.*

*The Prayer for Spiritual Communion is prayed by those at home unable to partake of communion in person*

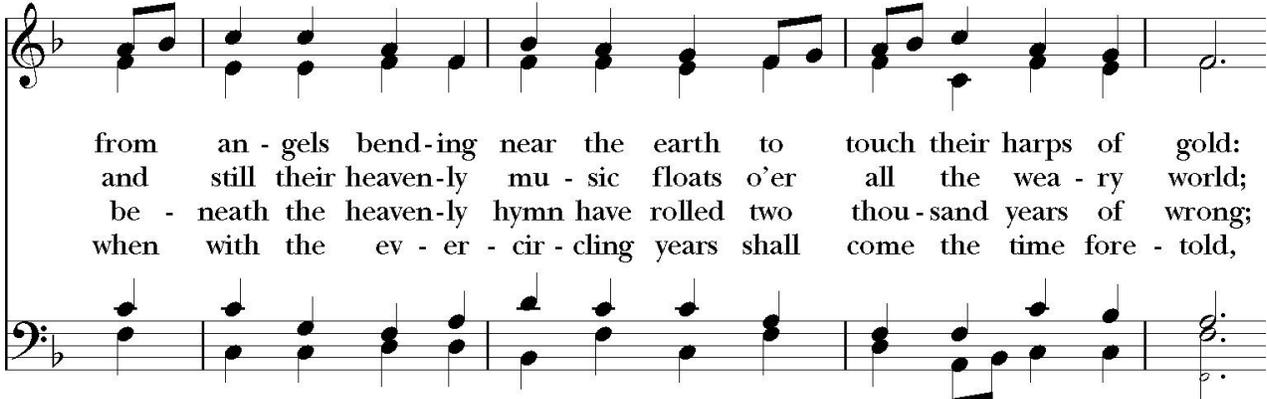
PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*The Prayer for Spiritual Communion is prayed by those at home unable to partake of communion in person*

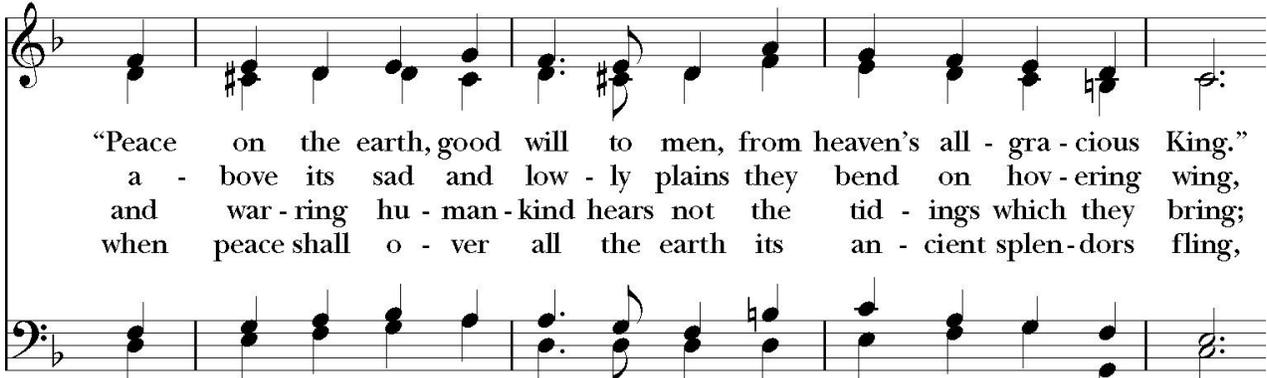
In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, 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.



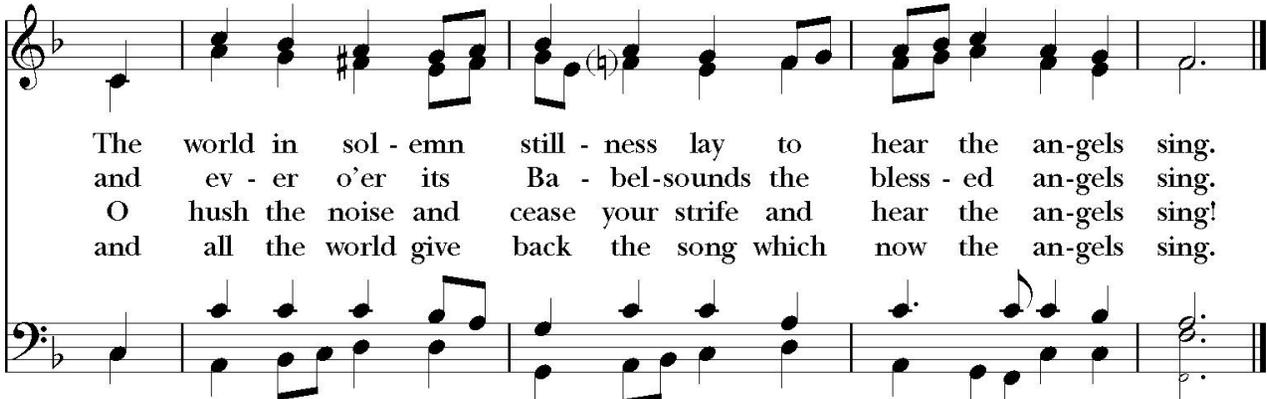
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long;  
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by pro - phets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav - en - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 be - neath the heav - en - ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all - gra - cious King.”  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,  
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the tid - ings which they bring;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**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

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 Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

**Amen.**

Please stand as able.

HYMN IN PROCESSION 99

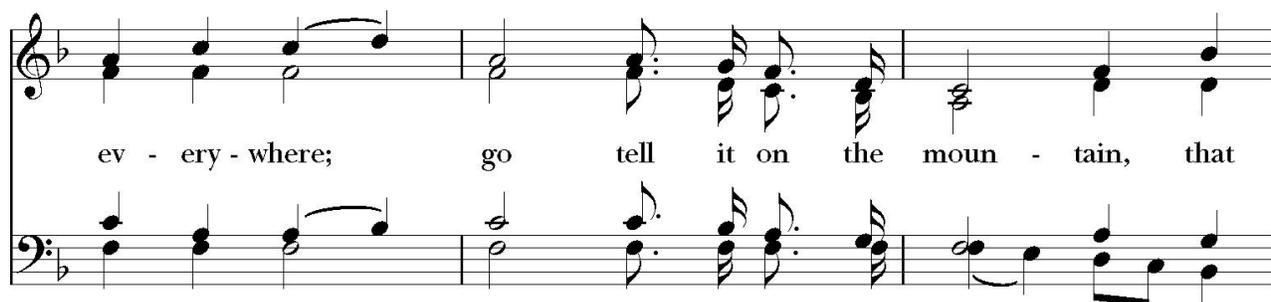
Go tell it on the mountain

Go Tell it on the Mountain

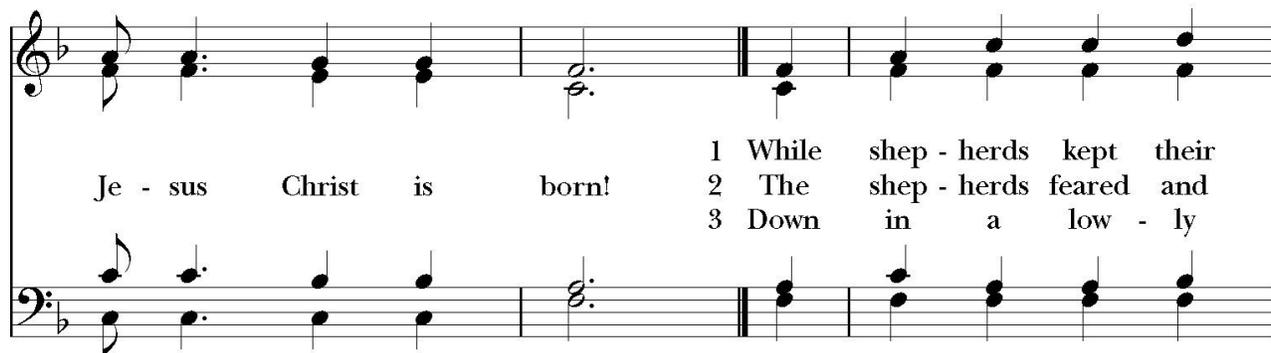
*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

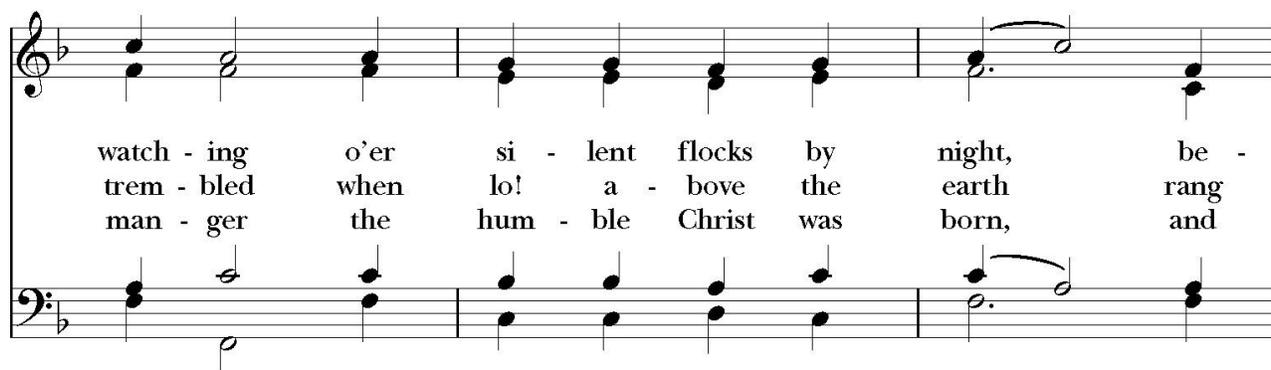


ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that



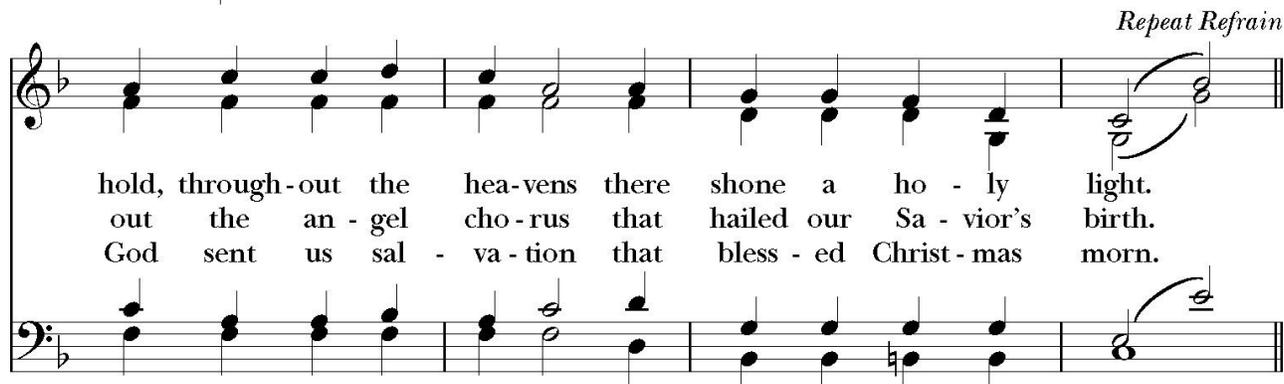
Je - sus Christ is born!

- 1 While shep - herds kept their
- 2 The shep - herds feared and
- 3 Down in a low - ly



watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

*Repeat Refrain*



hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

DISMISSAL

Officiant

People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

VOLUNTARY

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Johann Sebastian Bach

A **Virtual Coffee Hour** this morning will be live on Facebook and Youtube following the service.

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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.

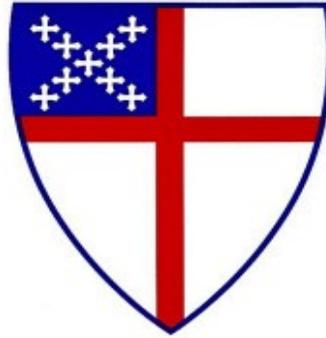
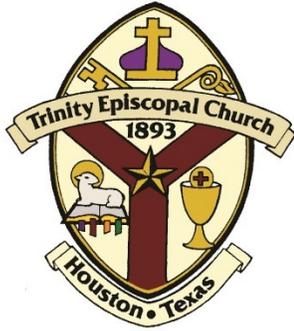
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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





### STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pelayo Parlade, *Co-Director*  
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