TRINITY SUNDAY

JUNE 4, 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/

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.
- 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

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: Phillip Hall, guest musician Flute, Clarinet: Ernesto Vega

Bass: Alfred Kennedy

SERVING TODAY

Lector: Mary Ann Collier
Prayers: Marcella Marino
Acolyte: Barrett Hess
Usher: David Theis
Audio Visual: Paul Bower
Online Greeter: Pam Lawson
Altar Guild: Linda Davenport

Vestry of the Day: Mary Matteucci

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of Susan Gallagher's birthday by William Durham





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Instagram https://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown

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











The Liturgy of the Word

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Please stand as able.

Presider Proclaim the Name: `The Lord, the Lord, a God who is merciful and

gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and

faithfulness.'

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

Presider Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy!



OPENING PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

Father, you sent your Son to bring us truth and your Holy Spirit to make us holy; open our hearts to exalt you, open our lives to reveal you, our one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This we ask through Jesus

Christ our Savior.

People Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 1: 1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

(Continued on page 6)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Please stand as able Motthew 28: 16-20

Presider The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People Praise and glory to God!

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Presider This is the Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to Christ, the Word.

Please be seated

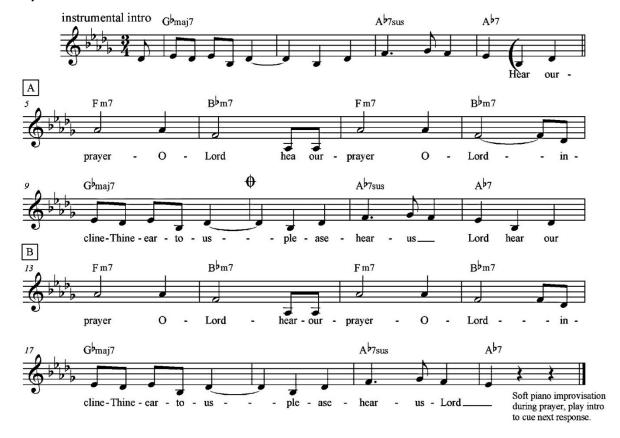
MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

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 Most Reverend Samy Fawzy and the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for All Saints', Hitchcock; Good Shepherd, Friendswood; and Grace, Alvin. In the ministry cycle of prayer for Saba Blanding and the Trinity Endowment. For the peace and unity of the Church of God.

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

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

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, Charles, Kathy, Demetrick, Mary, Bob, Dale, Kathy, Harrison, Edith, Ada, Rafael, Erma, and Steve.

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 all victims of gun violence, and all who have perished from contracting the Coronavirus. 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 Carol, Daniel, and Barrett, who are celebrating their birthdays.

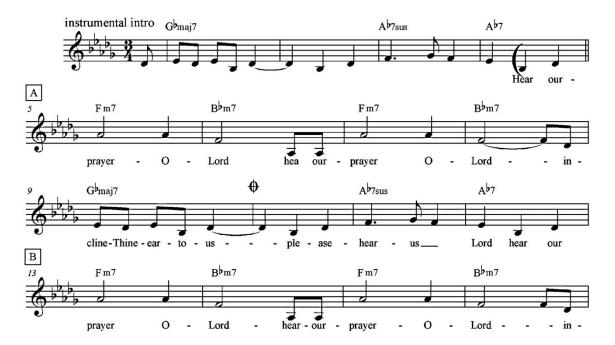
Response

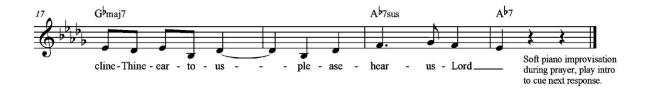
O God, we who come before you this day are many and diverse, with different needs and desires.

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.

Response







The Celebrant offers the following concluding prayer:

Oh Lord we remember before you all those whose lives have been ended or shattered by gun violence. We give you thanks for the witness here at this gathering today. We pray that this country may wake up to the horror of gun violence and work toward peace and freedom from fear. All this we ask in and through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CONFESSION

Presider Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are par-

doned. I will confess my sins to the Lord. I will not conceal my wrong-

doinas.

God forgives and heals us.

We need your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance. **People**

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.

God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself. Presider

THE PEACE

Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace. Presider People Who breaks down the walls that divide. Presider The peace of God be always with you.

Praise to Christ who makes us one. People

MUSIC AT THE PEACE Say a Little Prayer Burt Bacharach

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY LIFE AND ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

June 4, 2023

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
Phillip Hall, pianist

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.

When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit. In the mystery of your Godhead you have revealed to us the fullness of your divine glory. We praise you, Father, with the Son and the Spirit, three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be worshiped and adored.

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.

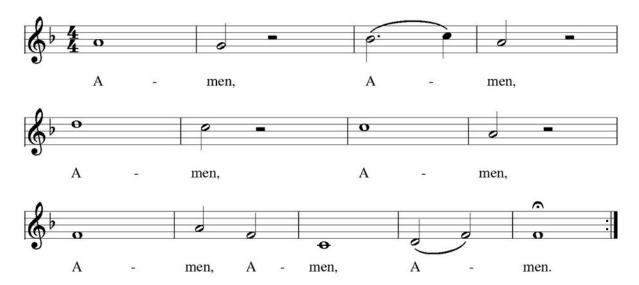
After supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

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, 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.

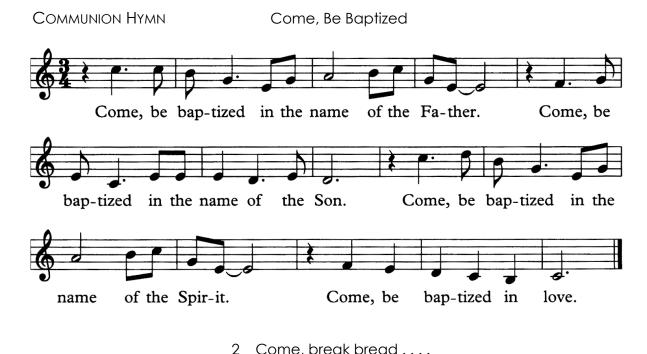


We offer a gluten-free bread option for those with dietary restrictions who wish to receive communion. To receive a gluten free wafer, please clasp your hands with palms facing each other when you come forward for communion.

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



Trinity Sunday 12 12:30 pm

Come, drink wine

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Please stand as able.

Presider
People
Blessed be God who calls us together.
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.

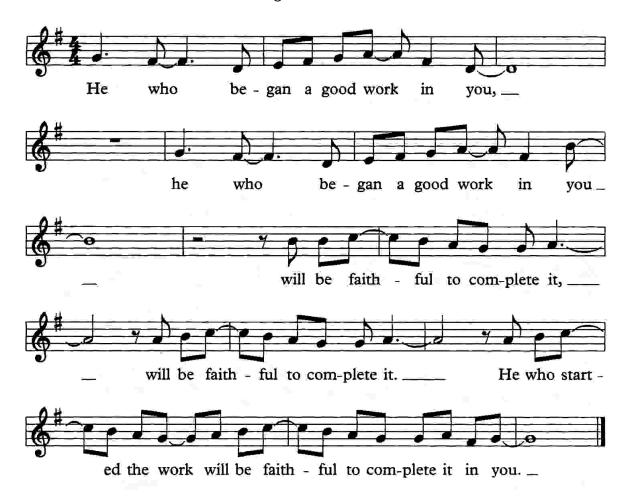
THE BLESSING

Presider May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend

you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing

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

People Amen.



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.

We would like to thank all who assisted with this morning's coffee hour. Please note that August 13, 20, and 27 are open to host (part/all) coffee hour.

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or online.

For the month of July there will be one combined service in the historic church at 10:30, with coffee only following in Fellowship Hall.





Sunday In-Person Services

8:00 am and 12:30 pm (Chapel) 10:30 am (Historic Church)

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday Services Change! July 2023

Please note that we will move to ONE Sunday morning service for the month of July. We will all meet together at 10:30am in the Historic Church. Music during the service will be a combination of our varied styles. Thank you for your support as we transition to this new schedule for month of July only!

Children's Programing: New Schedule Begins June 11th

Children's Chapel begins on Sunday, June 11th, meeting in the Atrium. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will resume Sunday, September 10th. Please contact Rev. Luz for additional information.

Festal Choral Evensong for Trinity Sunday: June 4th, 5:30pm

Join us for our next Choral Evensong in the Historic Church. We will gather for a time of worship, music, and prayer.

Wear Orange for Gun Violence Awareness: June 3-5th

Join us as we wear orange this weekend to raise awareness about gun violence. We will be distributing orange ribbons on Sunday. Please take a moment to visit our gun violence memorial and visit www.wearorange.com for ways to be involved and work for change!

World Environment Day: June 5th

World Environment Day is Monday, June 5th. This year is the 50th anniversary as people around the world come together for sustainable solutions to global pollution. The theme for this year is "Beat Plastic Pollution." We invite you to visit the website and learn more about how you/we can help. View website here.

Taste of Trinity Brunch: June 17th, Coffee Hour

Sunday the coffee hour selections will be presented by The Taste of Trinity. Taste of Trinity is a ministry that is purely social, meeting monthly for a meal either in members' homes or at a restaurant. For more information, please contact John Merullo at rockhopperlad@gmail.com. The group welcomes new members.

Pride Parade – June 24th, Volunteers Needed!

Trinity will participate with welcoming Episcopalian churches in the annual Pride Houston parade on June 24 with the theme Queerly Beloved. The float will be prepared in the Trinity parking lot and volunteers are needed. For more information please contact Andy Durham at and-y.durham.321@gmail.com. To Volunteer RSVP Here.

The Blessing of the Animals: Volunteers Needed

Every year Trinity hosts a Blessing of the Animals around the Feast Day of St. Francis. This year the event will be on October 8, 2023 from 2–4pm. We are looking for three to six individuals that would like to help with the event. We organize games, food, a raffle, and donations during this event. Please contact Shelby at bearhawk75@gmail.com if you would like to help organize and assist with operations.

Episcopal Night at the Ballpark: July 28th

Will you be joining us for Episcopal Night at the Ballpark? We would love to have a great group attend the event. For more information and to purchase tickets click here.

Sunday, June 4th, 2023

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel) 9:30 am Education Hr for All - Adults in Smith Rm, Tweens in Fellowship Hall, Kids in Atrium

10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church)11:45 am Trinity Ministry Fair12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (Chapel)5:30pm Choral Evensong8:00 pm Compline (Facebook)

Monday, June 5th, 2023

8:00 pm Communications Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, June 6th, 2023

5:30 pm Evening Prayer 6:00 pm Property Committee (Zoom) 6:30 pm Finance Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 7th, 2023

10:30 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm 5:30 pm Evening Prayer 6:00 pm Healing Service (Zoom)

Thursday, June 8th, 2023

12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday, June 9th, 2023

12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Saturday, June 10th, 2023

Our Weekly Zoom links can be found at https://www.trinitymidtown.org/zoom-with-us/

Please Note:

The church hosts two summer camps from June-August. If you need to use a space in the church please make sure you have reserved it prior to your event.

Online Form here:

www.trinitymidtown.org/book-an-event Questions:

parishadministrator@trinitymidtown.org



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.

Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Jill, Stephen, Emily, Van, Dick, Theresa, Victims of Violence, Ric, Barbara, Livia, Carolyn, Sylvia, Daniel, Kensington, Joyce, Bob, Cristine, David, Robert, Susan, Cindy, Patty, Be, Graham, Dana, Samantha, Eugenia, Emilia, Gaby, Evan, Paul, Phil, Florence, and Rick.

For the faithful departed:

All victims of gun violence and all who have perished from contracting the Coronavirus.

Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour

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

The next available dates: 18th and 25th.

Sign-ups for coffee hour hosts are available, please signup online to volunteer here.

Next available dates: August 13th, 20th, and 27th.

Trinity Sunday: June 4th!

Happy Carol Wells, Daniel Romero Atkins, Birthday! Barrett Hess



Rev. Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector

associaterector@trinitymidtown.org

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

Ryan Mire, Parish Administrator parishadministrator@TrinityMidtown.org

Lauren Santerre, Admin Assistant adminassistant@trinitymidtown.org

Alex Jones Organist/Choirmaster alexionesorganist93@gmail.com

Carver Mathis, Youth Missioner youth@trinitymidtown.org

Pat Laubach, Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@trinitymidtown.org

Carol Turley, Membership Secretary membership@trinitymidtown.org

Larry Laubach, Treasurer finance@trinitymidtown.org

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

Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am - 4 pm Friday 9 am - 1 pm

If you have building concerns please email frontoffice@trinitymidtown.org. Thanks!





For more information on annual giving visit 2023 Stewardship Campaign.



Explore the Way of Love: LEARN

As humans, we often think of our lives in terms of stories. So much of the input of our senses, what we hear and what we read – and even what we feel – is processed in terms of story. We are the protagonist, the heroine or hero on a journey, pursuing our goal, facing conflict along the way, and each day is another chapter in our story.

When we look to the example of Jesus, we see a life in which God was incorporated in a very real way as part of that story. As we embark on the Way of Love, the practice that leads us in the footsteps of Jesus and those who have followed him for generations, we can invite God into our own stories.



The Way of Love calls us to the practice of learning. As the Psalmist prays, "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths."

By reading the scriptures, taking time to study, listen, and absorb what they say, we are entering into the long, deep, stream of humankind's experiences with God. By taking time daily to engage with the Scriptures, particularly the stories of the life of Jesus, we move beyond pop culture interpretations and quick one-line verses and immerse ourselves into the character, will, and story of God. And by internalizing what we read—meditating and allowing even the most mysterious words to flow over us and work inside of us—we are allowing God to work in our story, too.

Diving into the Scriptures can be daunting for some. The Bible is not a rulebook or instruction manual to be easily digested and applied on first reading. Instead, it is a library of different experiences with God, written or told by many different people in different places for different reasons over generations of time.

Beginning to understand and know the Scriptures is a lifelong practice, and calls for patience, openness, and a willingness *not* to know every answer. But as we continually study, and discuss with other people who accompany us on our journey, and reflect upon the ideas on the page, sometimes wrestling with them, and sometimes just letting them flow by like a spring breeze, we will grow in understanding, and we will get to know God better, as God becomes more and more intertwined with our own story.

Are you willing to commit to the practice of learning? Are there those around you who can support and join you as you learn?

Learn more about the Way of Love at *episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove*. You can find suggestions on getting started and going deeper with Learning at *iam.ec/ewol*.

Published by the Office of Formation of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017
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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.

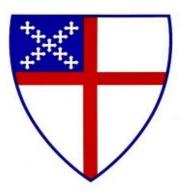
During the late 1910s and 1920s, Trinity entered an era of explosive growth, paralleling that of the city, and became an important center of the Episcopal faith. The congregation's many youth and adult activities were community events that attracted wide attention among the general populace. An integral 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 stead-fast, 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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