THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 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: Pelayo Parlade

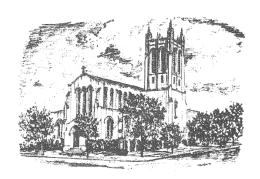
Flute, Clarinet: Ernesto Vega

Bass: Alfred Kennedy

SERVING TODAY

Lector: Linelle Clark
Prayers: Marcella Marino
Acolyte: Barrett Hess
Usher: David Theis

Audio Visual: Jeremy Velasquez Online Greeter: Pam Lawson Altar Guild: Linda Davenport Vestry of the Day: Gladys Vallés





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The Liturgy of the Word

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Please stand as able.

Presider 'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'whoever lives and

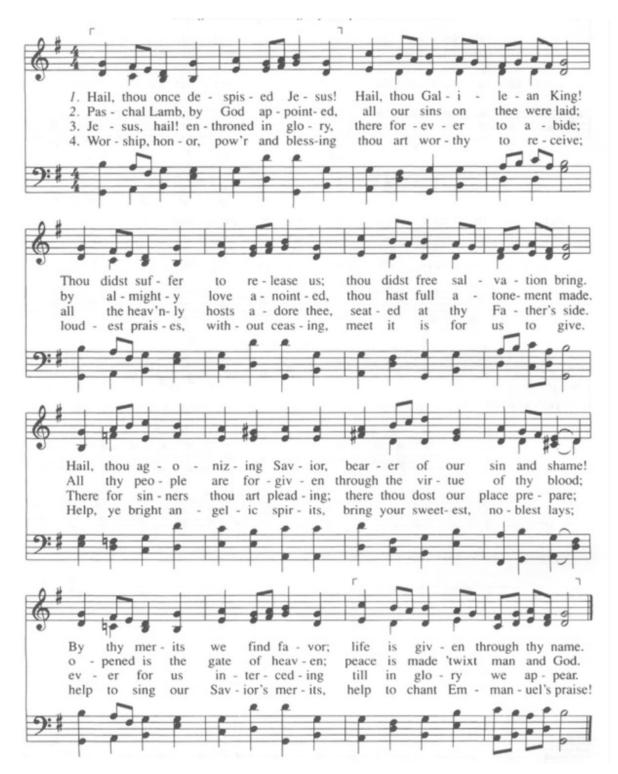
believes in me shall never die.

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

Presider Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus



OPENING PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

God in Trinity, Creator, Savior, Giver of life and truth, reveal the possibilities within us, that we may attain to the fullness of our

humanity. Hear this prayer for your love's sake.

People Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON Romans 8: 6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Please stand as able John 11: 1-45

Presider The Holy Gospel according to John.

People Praise and glory to God!

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So

the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Presider This is the Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to Christ, the Word.

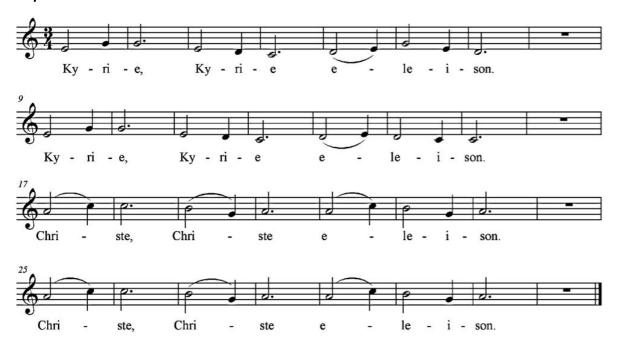
Please be seated

SERMON The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

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

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 Nick Drayson and the Anglican Church of South America. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for St. Paul's, Navasota; St. Peter's, Brenham; St. Philip's, Hearne; and St. Thomas', College Station. In the ministry cycle of prayer for Carver Mathis and the Newcomers Ministry. 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, Byron, Theresa, Florence, Charles, Mary, Kathy, Demetrick, Christopher, Letha, Connie, Phil, Bob, Sarah, Evan, and Susan.

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 Norma, Ryan, and Catherine, who are celebrating their birthdays.

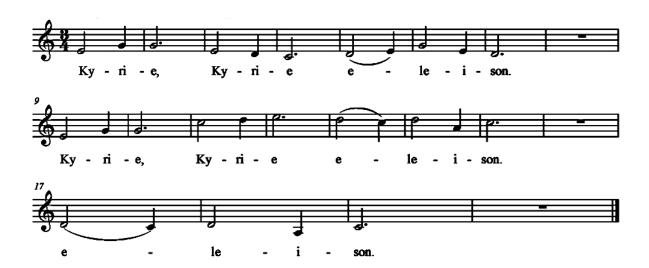
Response

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



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

doings.

God forgives and heals us.

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

Some sins are plain to us; some escape us; some we cannot face. Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.

Call familia a visus Familia alla moderno di carro della constitución della constitución

Presider God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself.

THE PEACE

Presider
People
Presider
Presi

MUSIC AT THE PEACE Today Richard Smallwood

Please be seated.

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Trin-

ity Jazz Ensemble

Please stand as able.

Presider The Lord is here. People God's Spirit is with us. Presider Lift up your hearts. People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Presider

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

In your Son you suffered with us and for us, offering us the healing riches of salvation and calling us to freedom and holiness. Though tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not sin; through him therefore we may triumph over sin and grow in arace.

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 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.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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.





Presider Blessed be God who calls us together.

People Praise to God who makes us one people.

Presider Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

People Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Presider Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

People Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Presider Blessed be God who alone has called us.

People Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Presider Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise. **People Accept our thanks for all you have done.**

Presider Send us now into the world you love.

People Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage

in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Presider Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness

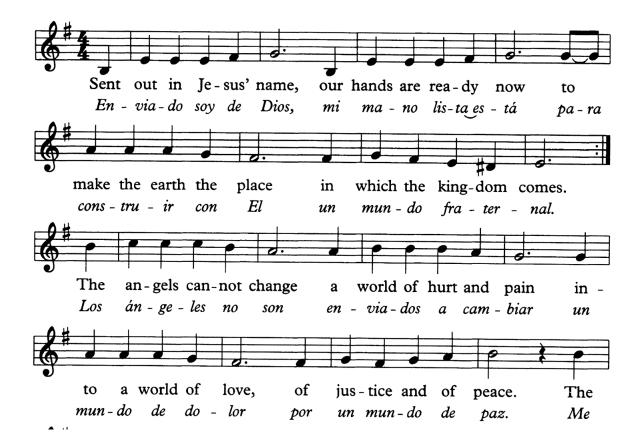
and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver

of life be with you always.

People Amen

Closing Hymn

Sent Out in Jesus' Name





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 the Altar Guild and Flower ministries for this week's coffee hour.

We also have flower dedication dates available for April 9 (Easter Sunday), April 16. and April 23.

Please sign up to donate on our website.



THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OF TRINITY THE HEART OF MIDTOWN March 26, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

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



Sunday In-Person Services

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

Easter Flowers!!!

Easter is only two weeks away! We would love you to complete your dedication for Easter Flowers this week. Easter is a special day and the flowers are an integral part of our celebration. You can sign up for your flower dedication by clicking HERE.

EAC Manna Bags: March 26th, During Coffee Hour

Help Assemble Hygiene Bags for the Homeless during Coffee Hour. Help offer some hope and health and dignity to the homeless in the form of a small bag of toiletries. We'll have materials to assemble during coffee hour or at home, and a "recipe" to create more if you wish. These bags are offered by our community partners at the Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC) as part of their sack lunch program. Questions? Mary Johns mkjohns@wt.net.

Family Picnic: March 26th, 3:00pm

Join us Sunday. March 26th at 3pm on the Francis St. Lawn for our annual family picnic. We look forward to fun and fellowship with you. We ask each family to bring a shareable dish. We have an online signup HERE to help with planning.

Pub Theology: March 29th, 7:00 pm

This month we are delighted to welcome Rev. Brad Sullivan, the new rector for Lord of the Streets. Rev. Sullivan has authored a book titled The Hurt, The Blessed and The Damned, which will be the topic of our gathering (purchase here). Pub Theology meets at The Brass Tap. Please RSVP HERE. Invite your friends! We will have a great evening together.

Garden Club: March 31st, 10:00am

Please note that our April Garden club meeting will be held on March 31st. We look forward to seeing you on Friday. For any questions please email Sylvia Drew at trymahjong@yahoo.com.

Holy Week Services and Events:

Monday 4/3: 12pm - Midday Eucharist (Chapel) Tuesday 4/4: 12pm - Midday Eucharist (Chapel) Wednesday 4/5: 6pm - Tenebrae Service (Chapel)

Thursday 4/6: 6pm – Maundy Thursday (Chapel), 7:30pm (Church); The Watch

Begins at 9:00pm (Church)

Friday 4/7: 11:30am - Children's Program, 12pm - Good Friday Liturgy (Church), 1:15pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday 4/8: 7:30pm - Great Easter Vigil (Church)

Sunday 4/9: 8:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite I(chapel), Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30am (church), Holy Eucharist Rite III 12:30pm (chapel), 8pm - Compline (Spanish)

Register for The Watch 2023 Here!

Trinity Baptism Class: April 1st, 10:00am

Our Baptism Class will be Saturday, April 1st at 10 am in the Smith Room. Please contact our Associate Rector, Rev. Luz at associaterector@trinitymidtown.org for additional information!

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, March 26th, 2023

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I Chapel 9:00 am Sunday Meditations (Zoom) 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 11:15 am Manna Bags, Fellowship Hall 12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III Chapel 3:00 pm Family Picnic, Francis St. Lawn 8:00 pm Compline (Facebook)

Monday, March 27th, 2023

5:30 pm Evening Prayer8:00 pm Communications Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 28th, 2023

5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday, March 29th, 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
6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Pub Theology, The Brass Tap

Thursday, March 30th, 2023

12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday, March 31st, 2023

10:00 am Garden Club Meeting12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Saturday, April 1st, 2023

10:00 am Baptism Class

Our Weekly Zoom links can be found at

https://www.trinitymidtown.org/zoom-with-us/



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, Teresa Victims of Violence, Ric, Barbara, Livia, Carolyn, Sylvia, Daniel, Kensington, Theorphilis, Lynn, Joyce, Bob, Cindy, Christine, David, Robert, Phil, Richard, Patty Jose, Julie, Callie, Billie, Be, Graham, Debbie, Dana, Edgar, Gary, Maryanne, Sam, Samantha, Jarrett, Maddie, Harrison, Eugenia, Emilia, Gabby.

For the faithful departed

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

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

Rev. Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector

associaterector@trinitymidtown.org

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

Ryan Mire, Parish Administrator parishadministrator@TrinityMidtown.org

Lauren Santerre, Admin Assistant adminassistant@trinitymidtown.org

Alex Jones Organist/Choirmaster alexjonesorganist93@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

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: April 9th (Easter Sunday), 16th, and 23rd.



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

Next available dates: April 23rd and 30th.





Norma Cooper, Ryan Mire, Catherine Stubbs



Office Hours

Monday-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.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning "spring," the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly.

In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, and the last three days of Holy Week are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Purple is the traditional color of Lent, as it represents for us both repentance and royalty. Jesus was dressed in a purple robe during his Passion as a mockery of his being "the king of the Jews"; since long before his time, purple had been a symbol of royalty. For example, in Exodus, we can read how Moses ordered the tabernacle to be made of "ten sheets woven of fine linen twine and of violet, purple, and scarlet yarn" (Exodus 26:1) and in 2 Chronicles 3:14 we read that Solomon ordered the temple in Jerusalem to be decorated with fabric of the same colors. The Church decided to keep the color purple as a symbol, not just of penance and mourning (in anticipation of the crucifixion, and with reference to Jesus), but also as a reminder of the need to confront our own sins, to prepare ourselves spiritually, and to help our neighbors to draw closer to God and his kingdom (conserving in this way the solemn character traditionally assigned to purple).

All Christians are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP, p. 265).

In accordance with ancient custom the Book of Common Prayer provides that in Lent, Alleluia is omitted, and may be omitted at other times except during Easter season BCP, p. 337).

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.

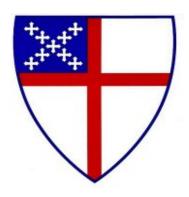
During the late 1910s and 1920s, Trinity entered an era of explosive growth, paralleling that of the city, and became an important center of the Episcopal faith. The congregation's many youth and adult activities were community events that attracted wide attention among the general populace. An integral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