THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024 12:30 p.m.



The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, 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 Eric Beam, Junior Warden

Brent Chambers
Tony Huffman
Pam Lawson
Mary Matteucci
John Merullo
Samantha Rainman
Jeanne Sommerfeld
Andréa Shiloh
Gladys Vallés
David Villarreal

Teddy Adams, Chancellor
Dana Gannon, Assistant Chancellor
Larry Laubach, Treasurer
Steve Lee, Assistant Treasurer
Ben Blanding, Clerk of the Vestry
Samantha Rainman, Assistant Clerk of the Vestry

THE TRINITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Vocals: April Sloan-Hubert Piano: Pelayo Parlade

Flute, Clarinet: Ernesto Vega

Bass: Alfred Kennedy

SERVING TODAY

Lector: Caroline Levander

Prayers: Julie Morin
Acolyte: Barrett Hess
Usher: Mary Matteucci
Audio Visual: Harold Robertson
Online Greeter: Pam Lawson
Altar Guild: Linda Davenport
Vestry of the Day: Pam Lawson

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God





Trinity Midtown Website:

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

Instagram https://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown

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













The Liturgy of the Word

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Please stand as able.

Presider Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; In

righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

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

Presider Let us worship God.



OPENING PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you teach us in your word that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with all our heart and our neighbor as

ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 10: 44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON 1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Please stand as able John 15: 9-17

Presider The Holy Gospel according to John.

People Praise and glory to God!

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Presider This is the Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to Christ, the Word.

Please be seated

SERMON

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

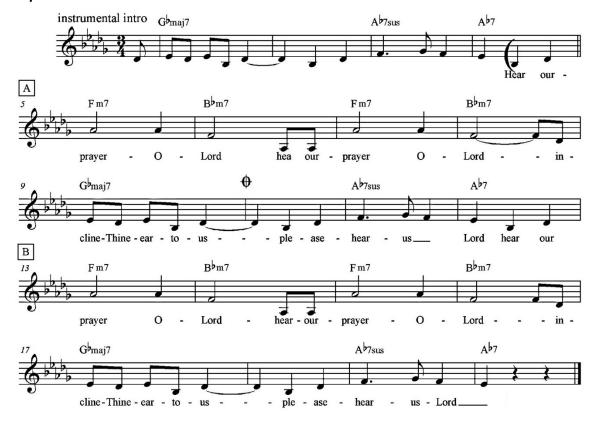
MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

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; John, 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 Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassotto, and the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for the Fort Worth Church Plant, Fort Worth; Good Shepherd, Granbury; Resurrection, Decatur; and St. Christopher's, Fort Worth. In the ministry cycle of prayer for Alex Jones and the Trinity Choir. 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, 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.

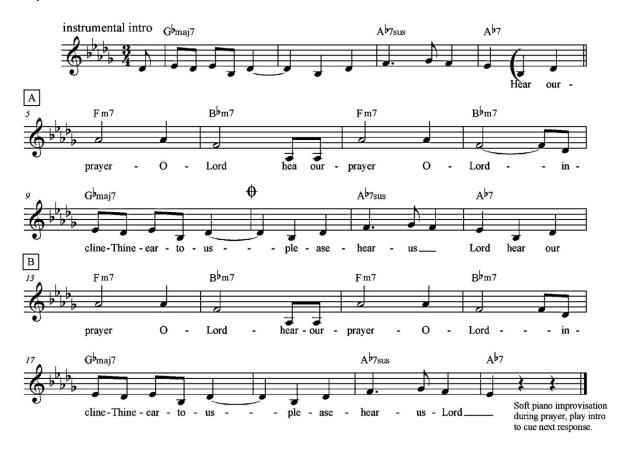
Response

- 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, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Monica, Daniel, Norma, 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 Dorothy Church, Cindy Brimberry, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, and all victims of gun violence. Grant that we, with all your saints, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfillment of your kingdom.
- We give you thanks for your servants in every age, especially for especially for Ross, Mary, Shelby, Armando, Ron, and Ana, 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 PEACE

Presider
People
Presider
Presi

MUSIC AT THE PEACE Let it Be Paul McCartney

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.

OFFERING

Online Giving is available.

Go to www.trinitymidtown.org and click the "Give" button on the top right, or click: https://onrealm.org/TrinityMidtown/-/form/give/now

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 Trinity Jazz Ensemble

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as able.

Presider
People
Presider
Presider
Presider
People
Presider
People
Presider
People
Presider
People
Presider
Pod's Spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts.
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. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new age has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

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.

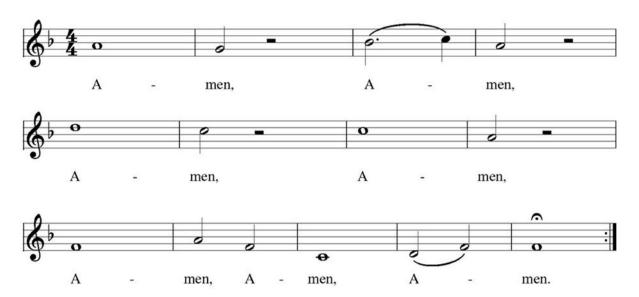
After supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

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.

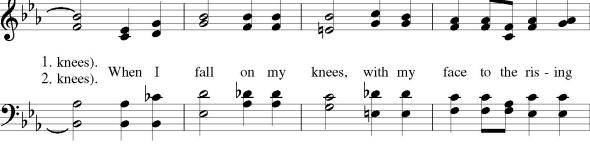


We offer a gluten-free bread option for those with dietary restrictions who wish to receive communion. To receive a gluten free wafer, please clasp your hands with palms facing each other when you come forward for communion.

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.





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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 People | Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin. Praise to God who gives hope and freedom. |
| Presider People | Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed. Praise to God who is revealed as love. |
| Presider People | Blessed be God who alone has called us. Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become. |
| Presider People | Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise. Accept our thanks for all you have done. |
| Presider People | Send us now into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit. Amen. |

THE BLESSING

The priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

Amen.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.



THE DISMISSAL

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

People We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thank you for worshipping with us this afternoon.

Service music printed from The Hymnal ©1982, and 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.

Flower dedication dates are available for June 2, 9, and 16.

Please sign up to donate on our website.

We would like to thank Jamie Chambers for hosting this morning's coffee hour.

Please note that June 2, 9, and 23 are available to host (part/all) coffee hour.

To sign up, please scan the QR code below or contact Jamie Chambers: <u>jamielynnchambers@hotmail.com</u> or call/text at 832-370-7155 if you need assistance.

Thank you



TRINITY SAZZ FESTIVAL JOLY 18-21

Set your summer calendar to sizzle in July for a four-day weekend of smooth jazz, Latin jazz, and big-band jazz featuring the Sinatra-style crooner from New York, **Benny Benack III**.

After a four-year hiatus following Covid, Trinity's annual jazz festival is back and hotter than ever, moving from January to July 18-21.

The time change is not the only big news.

With a theme of "Resurrection," we have taken on the energy of the Phoenix rising from the ashes, and you will see our branding logo to that effect. This new energy allowed us to reimagine and expand our venues, collaborate with broader communities, and express the power of the Beloved Community through music and connection.

Starting with our **Thursday night VIP dinner** once held in a hotel, under the magic hands of Bob Davenport, our Trinity fellowship hall will be transformed, featuring a Louisiana-style catered meal from the Ragin Cajun, a live band, and a silent auction. So put on your dancing shoes, get your grub on, and open your wallets to the silent auction featuring fantastic packages for your bidding.

We are collaborating with St. John's United Methodist Church Downtown to produce the Friday night concert featuring smooth jazz saxophonist **Kim Waters at the WeServ Theatre** inside the church at 2019 Crawford Street.

On Saturday afternoon, let your inner creativity loose and learn from the masters in masterclass jazz workshops at Trinity Midtown. The workshops are public and open to everyone.

Saturday night, prepare to be wowed by the magic fingers of trumpeter and velvet-voiced headliner Benny Benack III. But

not before Latin music local favorite Ermelinda Cuellar sets the stage with her sultry sounds.

On Sunday, our signature annual jazz Mass returns featuring the music of Count Basie under the musical direction of master trumpeter James Williams III and the spiritual leadership of our rector, the Rev. Hannah Elizabeth Atkins Romero.

Organizers and Trinity members leading the planning of this four-day festival are co-chairs Michele White and Ann McCoy.

Here are ways you can help: Of course, buy tickets. We have more than a dozen committee members for this massive undertaking and plenty of room for your help on committees such as fundraising and hospitality. Consider making donations for our silent auction or contacting your friends in business, entertainment, or service to donate packages for bidding, including timeshares, season tickets, artwork, massages, etc. If you have a business, consider buying an ad in our program guide featuring information on the four-day festival and the artists. For more information, contact Theresa D. McClellan at 616-389-7142 or Theresa@theresawriter.com

Sunday In-Person Services



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

Thy Kingdom Come - Ascension to Pentecost

Please join in praying with Christians throughout the world between the Feast of the Ascension (May 9th) and Pentecost (May 19th).

Thy Kingdom Come was begun in the Church of England in 2016, and has since spread to churches worldwide.

More information may be found in flyers at the church, on our website or at thykingdomcome.global .

Adult Forum on Creation Care, May 12th and 19th

The Reverend Canon Dr. Henry Atkins will lead a discussion at Adult Sunday Forum on May 12th and 19th at 9:30 a.m. on Creation care and the principle that we are the last generation that can save our planet. Creation care is a cause very dear to Canon Atkins' heart. Please come for a discussion about what we can all do to be better stewards of the good earth God has given us. Please also visit genzeroaction.com.

Multilingual Pentecost Reading - May 19th

It is our custom on the Day of Pentecost to have the lesson from Acts where the Apostles are heard to be speaking in multiple languages to be read in many languages simultaneously.

If you can read in a language other than English and would like to participate, please let Pat Laubach know at

volunteer@trinitymidtown.org. We can supply the text if you need it. We would like to have as many people participate as possible and welcome new readers.

Choral Evensong for Trinity Sunday - May 26th

Celebrate our parish feast day with a special service of Choral Evensong, on Trinity Sunday, May 26th, at 5:30 p.m.

Organist/Choirmaster Alex Jones and the Trinity Choir will present this sung liturgy which will include works by Charles Villiers Stanford and Benjamin Britten.

Honoring Sam Jones

Our longtime security guard Sam Jones recently retired after over 30 years of service to Trinity. Donations to a purse in honor of his three decades as part of the Trinity community will be accepted through May and will presented to him in June. Please contact Larry Laubach at finance@trinitymidtown for more details.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, May 5th, 2024

7:30am – 1:30pm Nursery Open 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel) 9:00 am Sunday Meditations (Zoom) 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church) 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) 12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (Chapel) 8:00 pm Completas (Facebook)

Monday, May 6th, 2024

12:00 pm Yoga (Atrium) 5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024

10:00 am Sandwich Makers (Fellowship Hall) 12:00 pm The Listening Post 5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024

10:30 am Staff Meeting (Smith)
12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)
5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)
6:00 pm Healing Service (Zoom)
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Room 218)

Thursday, May 9th, 2024

12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson) 5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

Friday, May 10th, 2024

12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson) 5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

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



PRAYERS

Our custom is to read aloud each week the names of those who request our prayers. We also remember in our Prayer Chain and Bulletin those who desire prayers. Please email to keep us informed. For information or comments about prayer names, please contact the Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero. If you would like to participate as a member of the prayer chain, please contact Norma Cooper.

Bill, Nick, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Monica, Daniel, Norma, Steve Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Stephen, Emily, Van, Dick, Ric, Barbara, Sylvia, Joyce, Bob, David, Robert, Susan, Patty, Dana, Emilia, Gaby, Florence, Carolyn, Rick, Charles, Harrison, Kathy, Erma, Mary, Chris, Guillermo, Holly, Ray, Barbara, Howard, Claudie, Romy, Bryce, Rose, Bart, Marie, Josh, Christina, Collette, Sybil, Charlotte, Bob, Pamela, James, Jason, Meredith, Nikki, Anneliese, Ella, Julie, Leslie, All victims of violence

For the faithful departed:

Dorothy Church, Cindy Brimberry, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine and all victims of gun violence.

Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour

If you would like to make a flower dedication, you can sign up at www.trinitymidtown.org/flower-ministry/. Next available dates: June 2nd, 16th, 23rd

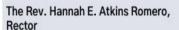
Sign-ups for coffee hour hosts are available, please signup online to volunteer here or scan QR code below. For questions or further information please contact Jamie Chambers: jamielynnchambers@hotmail.com or call/text at 832-370-7155 if you need assistance.

Next available dates: June 2nd, 9th, 23rd



Ross Wilderman, Mary Whisenhunt, Shelby Bradley, Armando Gonzalez, Ron Starbuck, Ana Cisneros-Camacho





rector@trinitymidtown.org

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

Ryan Mire, Parish Administrator parishadministrator@TrinityMidtown.org

Alex Jones Organist/Choirmaster alexjonesorganist93@gmail.com

Pat Laubach, Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@trinitymidtown.org

Carol Turley, Membership Secretary membership@trinitymidtown.org

Larry Laubach, Treasurer finance@trinitymidtown.org

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

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am - 3 pm Friday 9 am - 1 pm

If you have building concerns please email parishadministrator@trinitymidtown.org.



For more information on annual giving visit www.trinitymidtown.org/give.



May 5, 2024 – Easter 6 (B) Nominees for the 28th Presiding Bishop

The Episcopal Church's Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop on April 2 announced the names of the bishops it will nominate to succeed Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

- The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker, Bishop of Nebraska
- The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania
- The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York
- The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta

After the April 3-15 petition nomination period closed, the JNCPB announced that it had received one nomination. The bishop below was vetted through the same process of background and reference checks used for its nominees, as required by Canon I.2.1.d. The Episcopal Church's canons do not allow for nominations from the floor of General Convention.

• The Rt. Rev. Dede Duncan-Probe, Bishop of Central New York

Committee members began working together in the fall of 2021. They surveyed the church in May 2022 about the skills, qualities, and gifts most desired in its next presiding bishop, considering what the church and the world may look like in the next decade. The members used the 6,092 responses, along with hours of conversation and prayers, to develop the "Profile for the Election of the 28th Presiding Bishop."

In May 2023, the committee invited the members of the church to suggest bishops they ought to consider. Between May 15 and July 15, 111 Episcopalians submitted bishops' names. There were some duplications among the suggestions. Bishops could also nominate themselves. None did.

The committee invited all the bishops named to enter the discernment process. Those who agreed provided biographical information, references, and written and video responses to several questions. They were interviewed via Zoom. In January the members decided which of the bishops to invite to meet with them during an inperson retreat March 18-23 at the Lake Logan Conference Center in the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. The committee discerned its slate at the close of that gathering.

"We appreciate the many Episcopalians who prayerfully set us on our way to discerning this slate of nominees," said the Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, bishop of Alaska, who co-chairs the committee with Canon Dr. Steve Nishibayashi of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

For more information, contact the committee at pb28@episcopalchurch.org. Read more at https://generalconvention.org/nominees-for-the-28th-presiding-bishop/.

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

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Why is there no General Confession in Easter? Explanation by St. George's Church in Ontario, Canada

You may have noticed that the Confession – the part of the service where we collectively acknowledge that we make mistakes, that we hurt others, that we carry around guilt and doubt and regret, and then we receive God's forgiveness and assurance of healing – is absent during the Easter season. For some, this will feel like a major omission. Human beings are adept at weighing down our lives with feelings of powerlessness and inadequacy, anxiety for our shortcomings, gaping wounds of anger and hurt for how our relationships have been broken. This time in our worship to take stock, to lay down those burdens before God and to be reminded of God's faithfulness to, and love for, us can help many to feel lighter, freer, refreshed.

However, it is the tradition of the ancient church that the Confession is omitted during the season of Easter. It is not that Christians miraculously become perfect people during the seven weeks of Easter and therefore have no need of repentance and absolution. Instead, it is perhaps more appropriate to think of Easter as a rehearsal, a practicing of what a right relationship with God and one another actually looks like.

Whereas Lent is a time for honest and probing self-reflection, intentionality and care in how we use our time and resources, sparseness and restraint, Easter is a time for celebration, celebration of the fullness of God's kingdom, of a reality in which each of us lives in the light and love of God and reflects that light and love in our relationships with one another. In the fullness of God's Kingdom, we are free from the past brokenness and pain of our lives and our relationships are whole and life-giving. In the fullness of God's Kingdom, talk of sin and forgiveness no longer have a place, because we are healed.

We are not there yet. Brokenness and fragility are part of our story. We still look forward to the time when the promises of new life and healing offered on that first Easter morning will be fully realized. And some of us might continue to bring heavy hearts to worship through Easter. Individuals are encouraged to offer before God in prayer any confessions, any needs, any worries, regardless of whether it is Easter or not. However, our collective prayer changes at Easter in order that we might, as a community, tell this part of our story: Christ is risen! And we have glimpsed the Kingdom of God, where every tear is wiped away, where all hearts are mended, where we join with all of creation in receiving and sharing the good gifts God gives us.

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.

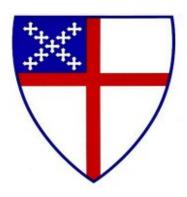
During the late 1910s and 1920s, Trinity entered an era of explosive growth, paralleling that of the city, and became an important center of the Episcopal faith. The congregation's many youth and adult activities were community events that attracted wide attention among the general populace. An integral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