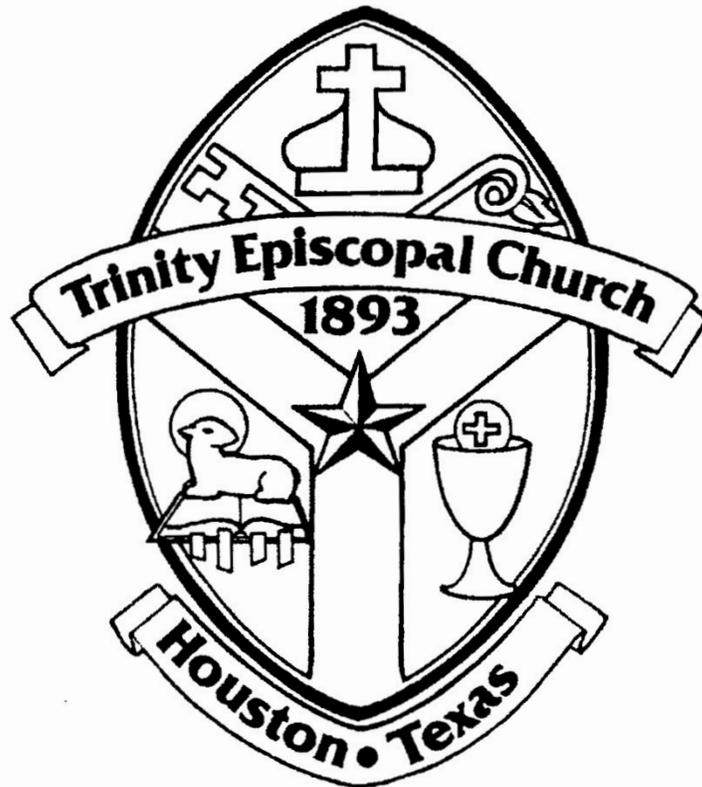


SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 16, 2021
8:00 a.m.



All attending please wear masks and maintain 6 feet social distancing with those not in your household

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

Collin Boothby, Organist and Choirmaster

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

WELCOME TO TRINITY CHURCH

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

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

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

<https://forms.gle/dvuRW2FUDny2hpRz5>

For more information, please visit our website:

www.trinitymidtown.org

For questions about how to connect with us, please email

Collin Boothby, Associate for Connections Ministries at:

connections@trinitymidtown.org



VESTRY

Amy Luke, *Senior Warden*

John Escoto, *Junior Warden*

Ben Blanding	Andy Durham
Jim Castro	Ann McCoy
John Cloud	Debbie Owens
Norma Cooper	David Theis
Terri DiRaddo	Michele White

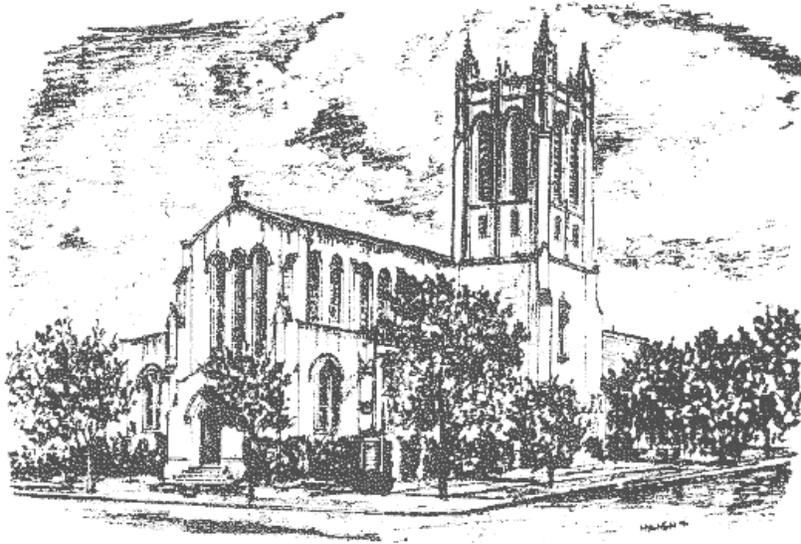
Teddy Adams, *Chancellor*
Dana Gannon, *Assistant Chancellor*
Larry Laubach, *Treasurer*
Steve Lee, *Assistant Treasurer*
Ben Blanding, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Castro, *Assistant Clerk of the Vestry*
Gayle Davies-Cooley, *Historian and Archivist*

SERVING TODAY

Reader: Samantha Rainman

Music: Wendy Wentland, piano

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in memory of Isabel Granados
by Samantha and Antonio Rivera



Follow us on:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchhouston>

Instagram

<https://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown>

Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/trinityepiscopalchurch>



HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

WELCOME

Please stand as able.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, page 323

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

People **Amen.**

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

BCP, page 324

Officiant Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

CANTICLE

Gloria in excelsis

Read in unison.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

**We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give you thanks to thee for thy great glory,**

O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.**

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted then only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

People **Amen.**

In the days following the Ascension, Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

Beatus vir qui non abiit

BCP, page 585

Alternately by whole verse.

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.**
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 5: 9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus prayed, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Curate

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Wendy Wentland, piano

Please stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, page 326

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP, page 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever-living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Hector, Jeff and Kai, our Bishops; for Hannah, Luz and Henry our clergy, and for all who minister in this place, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Let us pray for the Church and its mission. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for [the Most Reverend Onesimus Park and the Anglican Church of Korea](#). In the diocesan cycle of prayer for [All Saints, Hitchcock; Good Shepherd, Friendswood; and Grace, Alvin](#). In the ministry cycle of prayer for [Linda Davenport, Pat Laubach and the Lay Ministers](#).

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and 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 they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor: [Bill, Charles, John, Barbara, Eula, Be, John, Gary, Carol, Phil, Zane, Barkley, Pat, Kensington](#), and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We offer you, O Lord, our prayers of thanksgiving, [especially for the marriage of Samantha and Antonio Rivera, and for James, Samuel, Nancy, Ken, Julie, Chesson, Hannah, Marcia, Bonnie, Debbie, Kelly, and Barbara](#) as they celebrate their birthdays.

And we also bless thy Holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, [especially Willie Etta Holbert, Mildred Laubach, all who have perished by contracting the Coronavirus, and all victims of gun violence](#), beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant
People

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

Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

VIRTUAL OFFERING

Online Giving is available through AccessACS.

Go to www.trinitymidtown.org and click the "Give" button on the top right, or click:
<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=156477>

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP, page 340

Please stand as able.

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant *The Lord be with you.*

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant *Lift up your hearts.*

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

Celebrant *Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.*

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his glorious resurrection manifestly appeared to his disciples; and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying,

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glorify be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand as able.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People AMEN.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, page 336

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

For the duration of the current pandemic we will offer communion in one kind, the bread only. The priest will bring communion to your seat.



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 the priest administering the bread approaches you.

Please stand as able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, page 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou has prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Officiant

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

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.
Please remember to maintain social distancing as you depart.*



THE WEEKLY WINDOW

of TRINITY *The Heart of Midtown*

The Seventh Sunday of Easter – Year B

May 16th, 2021

Announcements



In-Person Services have resumed. Seating is limited due to social distancing guidelines. Register now by clicking [here](#).

8:00 am and 12:30 pm will be held in the Chapel, seating per service is limited.

10:30 am will be held in the Historic Church, seating per service is limited.

Please register for your spot today!



Are you stressed? Coping with life transitions, bereavement, caregiver burden, pandemic-related stress, or other issues? Need support?

Just want to talk? TLC might be for you! **Starting on May 13th** Click [Here](#) for more information.

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, May 16th, 2021

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (live in-person)
- 9:30 am Parenting with Grace (via Zoom)
- 9:30 am Sunday Meditations (via Zoom)
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (live in-person and on Facebook)
- 12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (live in-person and on Facebook)
- 8:30 pm Compline (In Spanish via Zoom)

Monday, May 17th, 2021

- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer on Facebook

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (via Zoom)
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer on Facebook
- 6:30 pm Vestry via Zoom

Wednesday, May 19th, 2021

- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer on Facebook
- 6:00 pm Healing Service (via Zoom)
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Pub Theology (via Zoom)

Thursday, May 20th, 2021

- 1:00 pm TLC (Masterson Room)
- 5:00 pm TLC (Masterson Room)
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday, May 21st, 2021

- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Saturday, May 22nd, 2021

Ongoing

Daily Scripture and Prayer

Sent by email Monday through Saturday at 9:30 am.

If you are not receiving this, contact Collin Boothby at connections@trinitymidtown.org

Send your Family Photos in for the Easter Photo Collage

to frontoffice@trinitymidtown.org



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

The altar flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of Isabel Granados by Samantha and Antonio Rivera

If you would like to make a flower dedication for the month of May the following dates are available:

5/23, and 05/30.

You can sign up for a flower dedication by clicking [here](#)

Save the Date For These Coming Soon Events

Choral Evensong – May 30, 4:00 pm

Organ Recital – June 3, 7:30 pm

Collin's Farewell Reception – June 6, 11:30 am

www.trinitymidtown.org

May 16th, 2021

The Seventh Sunday of
Easter –Year B

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.

Myron, Caroline, Bryan, Allegra, Diana, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Jill, Stephen, Emily, Van, Vivian Jane, Anita, Bob, Theresa, Marvin, Sue, Joe, Ester, Tom, Nick, Ric, Lauren, Margaret, Charles, Gwen, Catalina, Nelda, Christine, Livia, Mike, Daniel, Mark, Victoria, Theresa, Tim, Reagan, Joey, Fred, Cindy, Ron, Joshua, Sandi, Betty, Barbara, Sara, Jonathan, Emily, Cherie, June, Sharon, Stan, Larry, Monica, Gianni, Carolyn, Randy, Van, Andrea, Gary, Sylvia, Diana, Aristo, Bob, Danielle, Lynelle, Darren, Buddy, Kathy, Letha, Mary, Glenda, Richard, Tina, Peyton, Leonard, Jim, Elise, Jocelyn, Reiss, Minnie, and Zane.

For those in our armed services

Will Dahlstrom, Martin Cabello, and Christopher Krenshaw

For the faithful departed

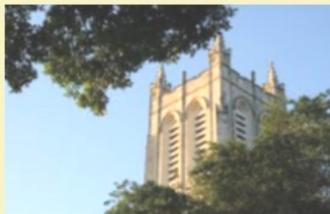
Willie Etta Holbert, Mildred Laubach, victims of gun violence, and all who have perished by contracting the coronavirus

For our Iona Seminarian

Carrie Hirdes

Trinity Episcopal Church

1015 Holman@Main
713-528-4100



Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

rector@trinitymidtown.org

Rev. Luz Cabrera Montes, Curate

curate@trinitymidtown.org

Rev. Dr. Henry Atkins Theologian in Residence

hleeatkins@aol.com

Collin Boothby, Organist/Choirmaster Associate for Connections Ministry

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FrontOffice@TrinityMidtown.org

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Pat Laubach, Volunteer Coordinator

volunteer@trinitymidtown.org

Carol Turley, Membership Secretary

membership@trinitymidtown.org

Larry Laubach, Treasurer

finance@trinitymidtown.org

Trinity Vestry

Amy Luke, Senior Warden
John Escoto, Junior Warden
Ben Blanding, Jim Castro, John Cloud,
Norma Cooper, Terri DiRaddo, Andy
Durham, Ann McCoy, Debbie Owens, David
Theis, Michele White

Trinity Beating Strong For & With You!

Here is an easy way to give!

TEXT

heartofmidtown
to 73256.

For assistance and/or questions
please contact

Trinity Finance Office

email: finance@trinitymidtown.org

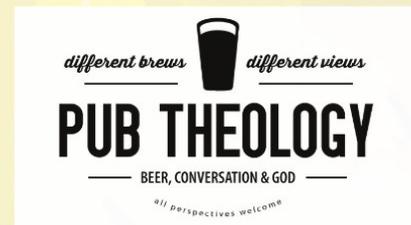
phone: (713) 528-4100.

Bishop Doyle's COVID-19

Guidelines

are available at:

epicenter.org/health-resources



Each Wednesday for the Month at
May at 7pm via Zoom. For more
information on topics that will be
discussed click [here](#)

Save the Date

JUNE 6TH

Collin's Farewell Reception on the
Francis Street Lawn at 11:30 am. If
you would like to volunteer to help
make this event a success please
email John Merullo at
rockhopperlad@gmail.com

Readings this Sunday

Acts 1: 15-18. 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5: 9-13

John 17: 6-19



James Donnelly
Samuel Romero-Atkins
Nancy Dawson
Ken Snell
Julie Keck
Chesson Olawaiye
Hannah Atkins Romero
Marcia Waldrop
Bonnie Chalmers
Debbie Owens
Kelly Heffner
Barbara Smith

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www.trinitymidtown.org

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.

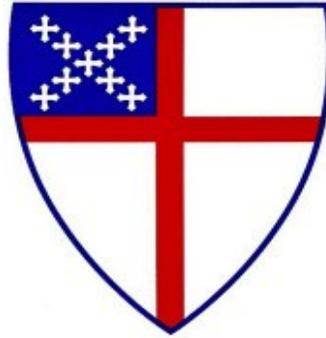
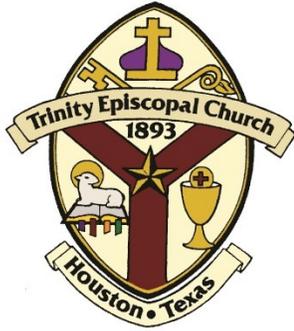
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street 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 steadfast, and actively ministers to a diverse congregation and to the poor in its midst. As the Midtown Houston neighborhood began redeveloping, starting in the early 2000s, Trinity Church has rededicated itself to its spiritual mission, and has become an active part of the Midtown area for music and other creative art expressions.





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