# THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 12, 2023 1:00 p.m.



The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector
The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector
The Reverend Dale Klitzke, Priest Associate
The Reverend Scott Painter, Guest Preacher

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.

#### **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: Mary Ann Collier
Prayers: David Theis
Acolyte: Mary Antiuk
Usher: Andy Durham
Audio Visual: Paul Bower
Online Greeter: Pam Lawson
Altar Guild: Linda Davenport
Vestry of the Day: Michele White

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband Richard Edgar by Judith Edgar





#### Follow us on:

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 Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is

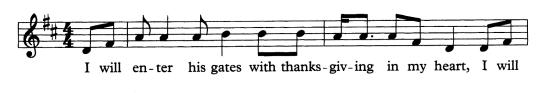
coming.

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

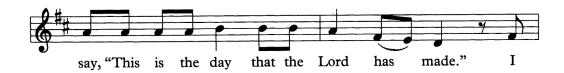
Presider Let us worship God.

**OPENING HYMN** 

I Will Enter His Gates

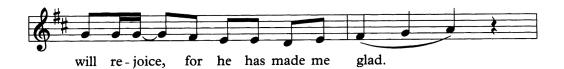


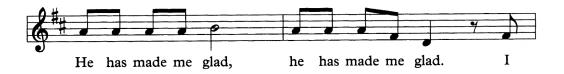














**OPENING PRAYER** 

Presider Let us pray.

Father, let us not serve you grudgingly like slaves, but with the gladness of children who delight in youand rejoice in their work; through Jesus

Christ our Redeemer.

People Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON Amos 5: 18-24

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Please stand as able Matthew 25: 1-13

Presider The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People Praise and glory to God!

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

(Continued on page 6)

As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Presider This is the Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to Christ, the Word.

Please be seated

SERMON

The Reverend Scott Painter, Guest Preacher

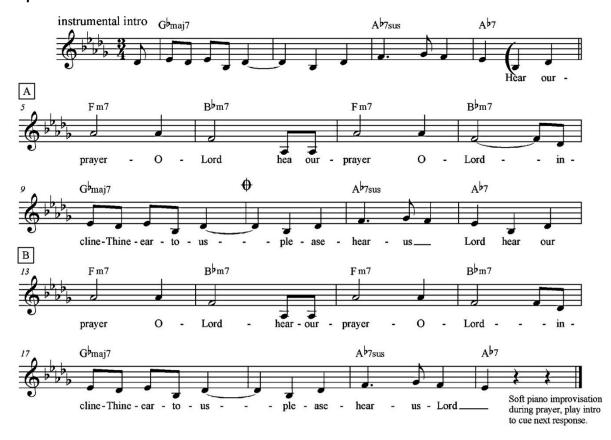
MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

Please stand as able

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### Response



Let us pray for the preservation of the earth. We give thanks for the beauty and abundance of the earth.

Give us and all peoples grace to live in harmony with your creation, wisdom and generosity in our use of its bounty.

- Let us pray for peace and shared prosperity, and for the end of systemic racism that divides us.
- We pray for leaders to serve the common good: Give wisdom to those who have responsibility and authority in every land, especially Joseph, our president; Kamala, our vice-president; Greg, our governor; Lina, our county judge; Sylvester, our mayor; and the legislatures, and courts; that we may share with justice the resources of the world, and work together in trust.

#### Response

- Let us pray for the Church and its mission. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Most Reverend Carlos Matsinhe, and the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for St. Catherine of Sienna, Missouri City; St. John's, Palacios; St. Mark's, Bay City; and St. Mark's, Richmond. In the ministry cycle of prayer for Mary Johns and the Emergency Aid Coalition. 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, Kathy, Bob, Dale, Edith, Phil, Graeme, Christopher, Rose, Junetta, Bart, Marie, Donna, Gary, Carol, and Antrina.
- 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 the victims of war in Israel and Palestine, the victims of Hurricane Otis in Mexico, 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 Erma, Elliot, Larry, Ceci, Anne, Luis, and Bob, 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**





#### THE CONFESSION

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

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

doings.

God forgives and heals us.

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

Some sins are plain to us; some escape us; some we cannot face.

Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.

Presider God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself.

THE PEACE

Presider Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace. People Who breaks down the walls that divide. Presider The peace of God be always with you. People Praise to Christ who makes us one.

MUSIC AT THE PEACE Cannonball Adderley Mercy, Mercy!

Please be seated.

INGATHERING OFFERING

Congregation will be invited to bring their pledge cards to the front of the church.

Officiant Let us pray.
Officiant and People

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good, true, beautiful and life-giving. These cards represent our work, our lives, our dreams. The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the gifts that have been given to us. They are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, and for the well-being of others and of our community.

May we give faithfully, generously and gratefully. May we see our offering to you as sacred, holy, yet earthly, filled with possibilities, hope and love for the world. As we watch our offerings come to your table and be of service to our neighbors, may we see our very selves being part of this offering.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen

# 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 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning Traditional

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as able.

Presider The Lord is here.

People God's Spirit is with us.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to offer thanks and praise.

#### Presider

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

When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. By his death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world and freed us from the bondage of sin. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory, in him you made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

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.

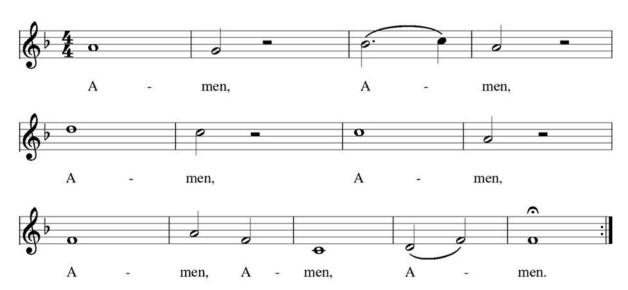
After supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

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.

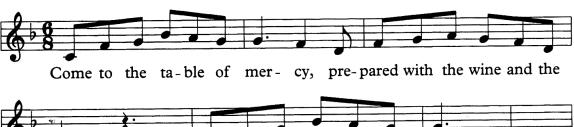


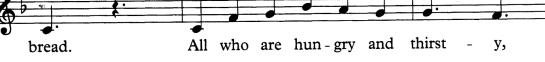
We offer a gluten-free bread option for those with dietary restrictions who wish to receive communion. To receive a gluten free wafer, please clasp your hands with palms facing each other when you come forward for communion.

#### 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.











Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand as able.

People	Praise to God who makes us one people.
Presider	Blessed be God who calls us together.

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 The peace of God which passes 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 our Creator, Redeemer and

Giver of life be with you always. **Amen.** 



THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People We go in the name of Christ.

Thank you for worshipping with us this afternoon.

Service music printed from Lift Every Voice and Sing II, An African American Hymnal © 1993 Church Pension Fund. Used by permission. Additional licensing from OneLicense.net #A-705504.

Please consider signing up to help livestream this service once a month.

Training will be provided.

We would like to thank the Stewardship Team for organizing this morning's coffee hour.

Please note that November 19, 26, and December 3are open to host (part/all) coffee hour. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or online, or scan this QR code:



#### Sunday In-Person Services

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

## THE WEEKLY WINDOW



OF TRINITY THE HEART OF MIDTOWN

November 12th, Twenty- Twentieth-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

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

#### Alex's Doctoral Recital - Tuesday, Nov. 13th, 7pm

Our Organist & Choirmaster is giving his Final Doctoral Recital on Monday, November 13th at 7pm at the Church of St. John The Divine. This will be a wide-ranging program on one of the largest and most exciting organs in Texas!

#### Farmer's Market with Journey Ministry - Sat., Nov. 18th, 11am

The Journey Ministry is getting its gears in motion for another interesting outing! The Journeys ministry seeks to build friendships while exploring the many interesting venues in Houston. In 2022, some of us met at the Houston Museum of African American Culture and later at the Holocaust Museum both very thought provoking experiences This year, we are planning a trip to Market Square Park Farmer's Market on November 18. We will meet at the venue at 11 am. We will plan to get lunch nearby afterwards. To RSVP please email Mary at <a href="mailto:mwmatteucci@gmail.com">mwmatteucci@gmail.com</a>.

#### Recovery Retreat 2023 - Dec. 1st-3rd, Camp Allen

Enjoy some time away in the beautiful East Texas Pines with activities for renewal, space for fellowship, and insightful teachings. Open to members of all 12 Step Fellowships and their Family and Friends of Recovery. Guest presenter Rev. Erin Jean Warde is a spiritual director, recovery coach, writer, priest, and speaker. Erin offers a course, Discerning Sobriety, which helps participants bring spiritual practices and mindfulness into their relationship with alcohol. You can explore her offerings around coaching, spiritual direction, and more at erinjeanwarde.com. Register online at <a href="https://www.campallen.org">www.campallen.org</a>.

#### Drag Me To Church- December 5th, 6:00pm

We invite you to get your tickets and submit your sponsorships for our excited winter FUNdraiser – Drag Me To Church! This is going to be an evening full of folly, fun, and laughs as we kick-off the holiday season. We are excited to be raising funds for the ministries of Trinity as well as our community partner, The Montrose Center. Seats are limited and the event is for ages 21+ only. Don't delay, reserve your spot today! Visit <a href="https://www.trinitymidtown.org/dmtc">www.trinitymidtown.org/dmtc</a> to purchase tickets/sponsorships and more information.

#### 2024 Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign Update

We look forward to seeing you at the In-Gathering this Sunday! We want to remind you that our Giving Goals for this year are 25 New Pledges and 98 Pledges with increased giving. Let's GO BIG AND GIVE BIG!

The Stewardship Committee

#### Pledge Here

2024 Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign Goal: \$500,000 Pledge Update as of 11/8/23 Total: \$121,342

> Total # of Pledges: 24 New Pledges: 4

#### Listening Post-Returns 11/21/23

Please note the Listening Post will take a break this week and return on 11/21.

#### THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

#### Sunday, November 12th, 2023

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 for All 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church) 11:45 am In-Gathering Potluck (Fellowship Hall)

1:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (Chapel) 8:00 pm Compline (Facebook)

#### Monday, November 13th, 2023

12:00 pm Yoga w/Saba (Atrium 2) 5:30 pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm Final Doctoral Recital (St. John the Divine)

#### Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

11:00 am Women's Circle (Masterson) 12:00 pm Endowment Meeting (Smith) 5:00 am Pastoral Care Team (Zoom) 5:30 pm Evening Prayer 6:00 pm Property Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm Finance Committee (Zoom)

#### Wednesday, November 15th, 2023

9:30 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson) 5:30 pm Evening Prayer 6:00 pm Healing Service (Zoom) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, November 16th, 2023

12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)5:30 pm Evening Prayer6:30 pm Listening Heart (Masterson)

#### Friday, November 17th, 2023

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

Saturday, November 18th, 2023

Our Weekly Zoom links can be found at <a href="https://www.trinitymidtown.org/zoom-withus">https://www.trinitymidtown.org/zoom-withus</a>



#### **PRAYERS**

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

Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Jill, Stephen, Emily, Van, Dick, Theresa, Victims of Violence, Ric, Barbara, Sylvia, Joyce, Bob, Cristine, David, Robert, Susan, Cindy, Patty, Dana, Emilia, Gaby, Florence, Carolyn, Rick, Charles Harrison, Kathy, Erma, Mary, Chris, Jane, Mark, Eliana, Laura, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Guillermo, Holly, Ray, Larry E., Thomas, and Pete.

#### For the faithful departed:

The victims of Hurricane Otis in Mexico, the victims of war in Israel and Palestine 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/.

The next available dates: November 19th, December 10th and 17th.

Sign-ups for coffee hour hosts are available, please signup online to volunteer <a href="here">here</a> or scan QR code below. For questions or further information please click <a href="here">here</a> to contact Jamie Chambers

Next available dates: November 19th, 26th, and Dec. 3rd.





Erma deWispelaere, Elliot Snell, Larry Laubach, Ceci Bruton, Anne Dayton, Luis Alvarez, Bob Flick



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, Parish Life Coordinator plc@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 <u>parishadministrator@trinitymidtown.org.</u>



For more information on annual giving visit 2023 Stewardship Campaign.

# AdventWord

DECEMBER 3-25 2023

AdventWord is a free inspirational online Advent calendar featuring a daily prompt word selected from the Sunday Lectionary readings. Followers receive a daily meditation and image inspired by the day's word, and are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression.

As we await the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we invite you to find daily moments of reflection to help you stay connected to your faith, to others, and to God.

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
WIND	HIDDEN	PRESENCE	PEACE	GRACE	WATCH	AWAKE
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
GLORY	HERALD	VALLEY	TRUTH	PATIENCE	HASTEN	BEGIN
17 SPIRIT	18 REPAIR	19 GIVE	20 DREAM	21 LAUGHTER	22 QUENCH	23 PONDER
24	25					

24 25
COVENANT LIGHT

Join our community of prayer this Advent season. Sign up for email updates and daily meditations at **AdventWord.org** 



Scan with your smartphone camera to be taken to adventword.org



AdventWord is an offering of Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church. Find more inspiration and opportunities for spiritual growth at **forwardmovement.org**.

#### 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.

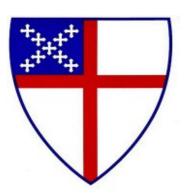
During the late 1910s and 1920s, Trinity entered an era of explosive growth, paralleling that of the city, and became an important center of the Episcopal faith. The congregation's many youth and adult activities were community events that attracted wide attention among the general populace. An integral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







#### **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

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