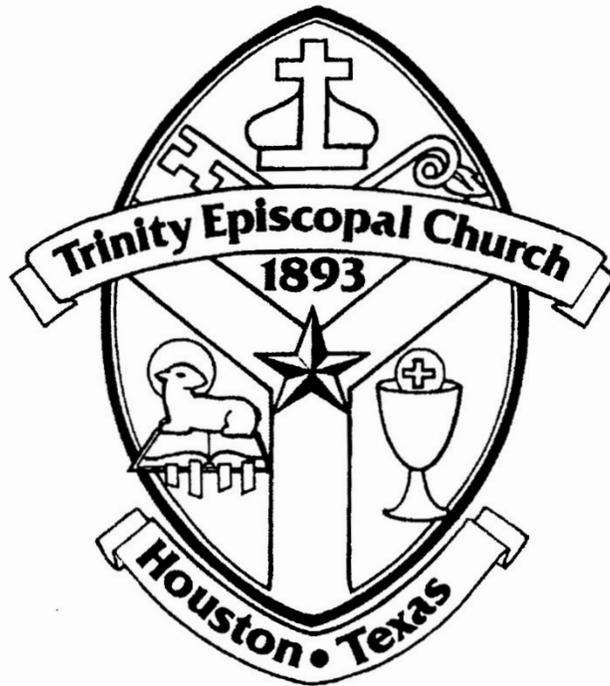


# A SERVICE OF HEALING

CATHERINE OF GENOA, MYSTIC AND NURSE  
1510

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021  
6:00 p.m.



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

Hank Carrillo, Interim Organist and Choirmaster  
April Sloan-Hubert, Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble

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

# A Public Service of Healing Catherine of Genoa, Mystic and Nurse, 1510

September 15, 2021

## The Word of God

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

**People:** And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

*After a period of silence, the Minister then says the following Collects.*

Gracious God, we commend to your loving care all who suffer, especially those who come here seeking your healing grace for themselves and for others. Give them patience and hope in their distress; strengthen and uphold them in mind and body; and grant, by your intervention, that all your people may be made whole according to your desire, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Gracious God, reveal to your church the depths of your love; that, like your servant Catherine of Genoa, we might give ourselves in loving service, knowing that we have been perfectly loved by you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## First Lesson

### Zephaniah 1: 7-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who dress themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish all who leap over the threshold, who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. On that day, says the Lord, a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. The inhabitants of the Mortar wail, for all the traders have perished; all who weigh out silver are cut off. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 86: 3-12

- <sup>3</sup> Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; \*  
I call upon you all the day long.
- <sup>4</sup> Gladden the soul of your servant, \*  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- <sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, \*  
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.
- <sup>6</sup> Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, \*  
and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- <sup>7</sup> In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, \*  
for you will answer me.
- <sup>8</sup> Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, \*  
nor anything like your works.
- <sup>9</sup> All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, \*  
and glorify your Name.
- <sup>10</sup> For you are great; you do wondrous things; \*  
and you alone are God.
- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; \*  
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.
- <sup>12</sup> I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, \*  
and glorify your Name for evermore.

## Second Lesson

### 1 Corinthians 2: 1-13

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## **The Gospel**

### **John 15: 5-17**

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my 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.

*Reader*    The Word of the Lord.

**People**    **Thanks be to God.**

## **A Litany of Healing**

*The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding*

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding. A Person appointed then leads the Litany*

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

All you Holy Angels, Archangels, and bodiless powers of heaven;

**Stand beside us to guide and guard us on our way.**

Holy Mary, Mother of God;

**Pray for us and the people of the world.**

For all who grieve the death of family, friends, and citizens;

**Give them courage and strength to meet the days ahead, O Lord, and the consolation of your love.**

Pour out your healing grace on all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are afraid, anxious, or overwhelmed, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Give peace, courage, and hope to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the sick and suffering, keep them safe and healthy, and grant them wisdom and skill, sympathy, and patience;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Open our eyes to see that you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and that our life and death are with each other;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Give us compassion for those in need, patience in this time of distress in our country, and love for our neighbors;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Let our hearts be not afraid;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does wonders:

**You have declared your power among the peoples.**

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

**And in your light we see light.**

Let us pray:

*A period of silence follows.*

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

### **Minister and People:**

**God of all mercy,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,  
and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*The Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## Prayers for Healing

*The minister may invite each person to give her or his name and any particular request for prayer. The minister then prays silently, then prays aloud using one of the following forms or similar words.*

I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, praying you will be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit. Amen.

*After all are anointed*

May the God who goes before you through desert places by night and by day be your companion and guide; may your journey be with the saints; may the Holy Spirit be your strength, and Christ your clothing of light, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Blessing

May God the Father bless us, God the Son heal us, God the Holy Spirit give us strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard our bodies, save our souls, and bring us safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

## Dismissal

*Officiant*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**People**        **Amen.**







## Catherine of Genoa, Mystic and Nurse, 1510

Catherine of Genoa is remembered both for her ministry of nursing the sick during repeated plagues, and also for the works that she wrote recounting her mystical experiences. Her writings became widely known when they were made the subject of Baron Friedrich von Hügel's classic work *The Mystical Element of Religion* (1908).

Catherine was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1447, the youngest of five children. As a teenager, Catherine wanted to become a nun, but her application to the convent was denied. Instead, she was married at the age of 16 to Giuliano Adorno as part of an attempt to end the feud between their two families. The couple were initially miserable together. Giuliano was angry, unfaithful, and lost most of their money through reckless spending. Catherine spent the first ten years of her marriage in a deep depression, praying that God would strike her with a great sickness so that she could remain in bed all day.

The trajectory of her life was changed on March 22, 1473 when she had a sudden mystical experience. While she was in church, in the middle of making her confession to a priest, she was suddenly struck with an overpowering sense of the overwhelming love of God. She was so stunned and dazed by this experience that she walked out of the church without even completing her confession. This was the beginning of a life of profound prayer.

Catherine combined a deep and intense contemplative life with an active dedication to caring for the sick in the local hospital. In time, her husband joined her in this work, and the couple became increasingly close to one another through their shared labor for those in need. They eventually moved together into the Pannatome, a large hospital in Genoa, in order to devote themselves completely to caring for the sick there. There Catherine also dictated a number of works of mystical theology, which were published some 40 years after her death.

Catherine insisted that God be loved only for God's self, and not for anything that one might expect to receive from him, writing in her biography that "Pure Love loves God without any ulterior motive." She also wrote: "All that I have said is nothing compared to what I feel within, the witnessed correspondence of love between God and the soul; for when God sees the soul, as pure as it was in its origins, he tugs at it with a glance, draws it and binds it to himself with a fiery love that by itself could annihilate the immortal soul."

She died on September 15th, 1510 while nursing the sick, and was buried in the hospital chapel.

Source: *Revised Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, 2018, page 475

## 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.

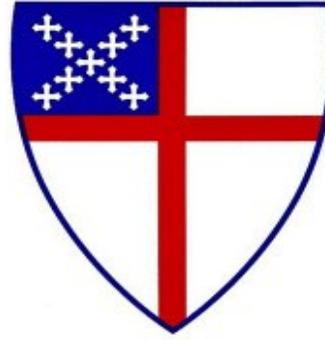
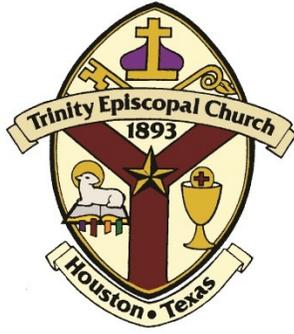
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street 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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