A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of
Kenzo Tsubai

October 13, 1950 - May 23, 2026

June 20, 2026
10:00 a.m.

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector
The Reverend Maria Teresa Bautista-Berrios, Associate Rector

Tian Qin, Organist
Paul Mortilla, 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://www.trinitymidtown.org/contact-card-page/

For more information, please visit our website:
www.trinitymidtown.org
For questions about how to connect with us, please email
connections@trinitymidtown.org

Vestry

Elisabeth Tsubai, *Senior Warden*
Eric Beam, *Junior Warden*

Ben Blanding
Shelby Bradley
Catherine Guthrie
Tony Huffman
Patrick Humphreys
Tim Lawson
Andréa Shiloh
Jeanne Sommerfeld
Amanda Talaat
Ben Tallcott

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

Officiant
The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

Readers
Andréa Shiloh
The Reverend Dr. Sylvia Klauser
The Reverend Susan Yarbrough
Shelby Bradley

Music
The Reverend Bradley Sullivan
The Trinity Choir
Paul Mortilla

Crucifer
Mark Goza

Altar Guild
Joanne Starbuck
Catherine Guthrie
Amanda Talaat

Ushers
Larry Laubach
Donald Hackler

Funeral Coordinator
Mary Cloud

Sexton
Van T. Bryan

TRINITY CHOIR

Soprano: Danielle Romano
Claire Connelly
Javiera Bravo-Alegría

Alto: Benjamin Rodriguez
Catherine Reed

Tenor: Tony Sessions
Sebastian Fernandez
John Merullo

Bass: Francisco Juarez
Harrison Moore, IV
Ben Tallcott

The High Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Kenzo Tsubai
by his family

The Liturgy for the Dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too shall be raised.

The Liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, principalities, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

The Tsubai Family's "Magic Circle"

The Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero
Catherine Blair
Dr. Phylliss Chappell
Katy Hays
Joe Keselman
Kayoko Keselman
The Reverend Dr. Sylvia Klauser
Paul Knobloch
Dr. Laura Morrison
Caroline O'Reardon
Shadrack Quarcoo
Kelly Reynolds
Dr. Sarah Selleck
Joan Son
The Reverend Susan Yarbrough

The one thousand origami cranes on display (called a *senbazuru)* were folded and strung as a tribute to Kenzo, by Kelly Reynolds, Joan Son, Kayoko Keselman, Sylvia Klauser, Libby Tsubai, and others.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD
RITE I

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* Johann Sebastian Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring
Holy wisdom, love most bright
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring
Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned
With the fire of life impassioned
Striving still to truth unknown
Soaring, dying round thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding
Hark, what peaceful music rings
Where the flock in Thee confiding
Drink of joy from deathless springs.

Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure
Thou dost ever lead thine own
In the love of joys unknown.

Liturgy of the Word

Please stand as able

OPENING ANTHEMS *BCP,* page 491

Officiant I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord;
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

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OPENING HYMN 657 *Love divine, all loves excelling* Hyfrydol
Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

(on next page)

OPENING HYMN 657 *Love divine, all loves excelling* Hyfrydol

Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

A COLLECT FOR BURIAL

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Officiant Let us pray.
O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Kenzo, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33
Reader: Andréa Shiloh

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

A READING *A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning* John Donne
Reader: The Reverend Susan Yarbrough

As virtuous men pass mildly away,
And whisper to their souls to go,
Whilst some of their sad friends do say
The breath goes now, and some say, No:

So let us melt, and make no noise,
No tear-floods, nor sigh-tempests move;
'Twere profanation of our joys
To tell the laity our love.

(Continued on page 8)

Moving of th' earth brings harms and fears,
Men reckon what it did, and meant;
But trepidation of the spheres,
Though greater far, is innocent.

Dull sublunary lovers' love
(Whose soul is sense) cannot admit
Absence, because it doth remove
Those things which elemented it.

But we by a love so much refined,
That our selves know not what it is,
Inter-assured of the mind,
Care less, eyes, lips, and hands to miss.
Our two souls therefore, which are one,
Though I must go, endure not yet
A breach, but an expansion,
Like gold to airy thinness beat.

If they be two, they are two so
As stiff twin compasses are two;
Thy soul, the fixed foot, makes no show
To move, but doth, if the other do.

And though it in the center sit,
Yet when the other far doth roam,
It leans and hearkens after it,
And grows erect, as that comes home.

Such wilt thou be to me, who must,
Like th' other foot, obliquely run;
Thy firmness makes my circle just,
And makes me end where I begun.

THE SECOND LESSON Revelation 21: 2-7

Reader: The Reverend Dr. Sylvia Klauser

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 — The Lord Is My Shepherd — John Rutter (b.1945)

(Sung by the choir)

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He shall feed me in a green pasture;
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

3 He shall convert my soul;
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me;
thou hast anointed my head with oil; and my cup shall be full.

6 But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Please stand as able.

AT THE SEQUENCE — *Somewhere Along the Road* — Cathie Ryan

The Reverend Brad Sullivan, solo and guitar

Somewhere along the road
Someone waits for me
Beyond the present storms that blow
Waiting patiently
No secrets held in an open heart
A spirit that soars over mountains
Somewhere along the road
Someone waits for me

Somehow a guiding light
Always shows the way
To those who lose their way by night
Searching for the day
A day away from happiness
Tomorrow will bring a new sunrise
Somewhere along the road
Someone waits for me

Sometimes when winds are still
Unexpectedly
Perhaps beyond this silent hill
A voice will come to me
Raise your eyes and see my world
Raise your voice and sing out
Somewhere along the road
Someone waits for me.

(Continued on page 10)

Somewhere along the road
Someone waits for me
Beyond the present storms that blow
Waiting patiently
No secrets held in an open heart
A spirit that soars over mountains
Somewhere along the road
Someone waits for me

Somewhere along the road
Someone waits for me

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 10: 11-16

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

HOMILY The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

INSTRUMENTAL *Planxty* Traditional Irish Tune

Please stand as able.

APOSTLES' CREED *BCP,* page 496
Officiant and People

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you,
People: And with thy spirit.
Officiant: Let us pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP,* page 476

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

Officiant: In Japanese culture, placing chopsticks vertically into rice signifies that the person has died, and may be made as an offering to the deceased.

PLACING OF THE CHOPSTICKS Miko Tsubai

INSTRUMENTAL *Sakura (Cherry Blossoms)* Traditional Japanese Tune

Officiant: Jesus, Lamb of God,
People: Have mercy on us.
Officiant: Jesus, bearer of our sins,
People: Have mercy on us.
Officiant: Jesus, redeemer of the world,
People: Give us your peace.
Officiant: Lord, have mercy,
People: Christ, have mercy.
Officiant: Lord, have mercy,

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Reader: Shelby Bradley

Let us pray.

Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to turn our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer, saying:
Lord, guide us in your way.

Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst. We pray together,
Lord, guide us in your way.

Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion — in thought and deed, with or without words — that the people of the United States might live in unity and peace. We pray together,
Lord, guide us in your way.

Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love. We pray together,
L**ord, guide us in your way.**

Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors in this city, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst.
We pray together,
Lord, guide us in your way.

Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint. We pray together,
Lord, guide us in your way.

Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died, especially Kenzo Tsubai, rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray together,
Lord, guide us in your way.

The Officiant offers this concluding collect:

Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us into live as your Beloved Community in this age and in age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE
Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Please stand as able.

COMMENDATION

Officiant Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with your saints,
People **where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Officiant Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People **Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Officiant Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Kenzo.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee,
a sheep of thine own fold,
a lamb of thine own flock,
a sinner of thine own redeeming.
Receive him into the arms of thy mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.
People **Amen**.

BLESSING

Officiant The blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever.
People ***Amen***.

CLOSING HYMN *Lord of the Dance* Lyrics by Sydney Carter

(the choir will sing the Verses, and the congregation will sing the Refrain)

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

Please join us for a Reception in Fellowship Hall.

Service music printed from The Hymnal 1982 (c)
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In lieu of flowers, donations made to Beyond Legacy, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides compassionate end-of-life support, planning, and education. www.beyondlegacy.org
or to The Trinity Episcopal Church Endowment, using the QR code below or online at
https://onrealm.org/TrinityMidtown/-/form/give/now
would be appreciated.

Kenzo Tsubai

October 13, 1950 to May 23, 2026

Kenzo Tsubai died on May 23, 2026 from complications of Parkinson's disease.

He was born on October 13, 1950 in Osaka, Japan to Harushige and Machie Tsubai, the youngest of three brothers. He immigrated to the United States in 1973 and lived in Manhattan for three years before moving to Houston, where for over forty years he owned and operated the popular Kenzo Hair Salon.

Ken was, quite simply, a good man. People gravitated toward his quiet steadfastness, perennially upbeat outlook on life, and total transparency. He was never petty or mean, never played games, and was a stranger to upset and anger. "I am a happy man", he'd often say. He adored his wife and daughter, loved his friends, and appreciated his clients.

In addition to the salon, Ken was an entrepreneur and inventor. He held several international device patents, including one for the Frogpad, an innovative one-handed computer keyboard. It was manufactured and successfully used by scores of people, including those who sought accessibility due to a missing or disabled hand.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, brother Seiji, and niece Yumi. He is survived by wife Elisabeth (Libby), daughter Miko, brother Haruo, and three nephews.

A celebration of Ken's life will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 20 in the main sanctuary of Trinity Episcopal Church Midtown, 1015 Holman, Houston, Texas. In lieu of flowers or other tributes please make a donation in Ken's memory to Beyond Legacy, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides compassionate end-of-life support, planning, and education. www.beyondlegacy.org

Staff Contact Information

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The Reverend Maria Teresa Bautista-Berrios,
Associate Rector
On Maternity leave until October 5, 2026

Tian Qin, *Organist*
Paul Mortilla, *Choirmaster*
Music@TrinityMidtown.org

Ryan Mire, *Parish Administrator*
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April Sloan-Hubert, *Co-Director*
Pelayo Parlade, *Co-Director*
of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble
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Volunteer Staff Contact Information

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