



trinity @7

12.12.2021

welcome

Trinity @7 welcomes you in person and via Zoom. This is a time where we enjoy jazz combined with poetry and a thoughtful reflection. We're always glad to see you and to share this special time together. Even though some of us are in person and others on Zoom, we are one community for a little while. What joy!

No matter the venue, may you experience stillness when it is needed and much joy and laughter when they are needed, or perhaps when least expected. Besides beautiful music and words, we hope this evening brings you a little bit of peace.

We will continue to have a candle lighting time, either at a candle wall in the chapel or in your home.

Given the increase in rates of COVID, we ask that those attending in the chapel wear a mask. Thank you.

a centering prayer

In the gift of this day,
in the gift of the present moment,
in the gift of time and eternity intertwined,
let us be grateful,
let us be attentive,
let us be open to what has never happened before,
in the gift of this day,
in the gift of the present moment,
in the gift of time and eternity intertwined.

amen

Prayer by John
Philip Newell

interlude

Ode to Enchanted Light

by Pablo Neruda

It hovers in dark corners
Under the trees light
has dropped from the top of the sky,
light
like a green
latticework of branches,
shining
on every leaf,
drifting down like clean
white sand.

A cicada sends
its sawing song
high into the empty air.
The world is
a glass overflowing
with water.

Pablo Neruda
(1904 – 1973),
Chilean born,
was a prolific
poet and leftist
political supporter.
Colombian novelist
Gabriel García
Márquez once
called him "the
greatest poet of the
20th century in any
language." Neruda
won the Nobel Prize
for Literature in
1971.

interlude

The House of Belonging

by David Whyte

I awoke
this morning
in the gold light
turning this way
and that

thinking for
a moment
it was one
day
like any other.

But
the veil had gone
from my
darkened heart
and
I thought

it must have been the quiet
candlelight
that filled my room,

it must have been
the first
easy rhythm
with which I breathed
myself to sleep,

it must have been
the prayer I said
speaking to the otherness
of the night.

And
I thought
this is the good day
you could
meet your love,

this is the black day
someone close
to you could die.

This is the day
you realize
how easily the thread
is broken
between this world
and the next

and I found myself
sitting up
in the quiet pathway
of light,

the tawny
close grained cedar
burning round
me like fire
and all the angels of this house
heaven ascending
through the first
roof of light
the sun has made.

This is the bright home
in which I live,
this is where
I ask
my friends
to come,
this is where I want
to love all the things
it has taken me so long
to learn to love.

This is the temple
of my adult aloneness
and I belong
to that aloneness
as I belong to my life.

There is no house
like the house of belonging.

David Whyte
(b. 1955) is quoted
as saying that
all of his poetry
and philosophy
is based on "the
conversational
nature of reality."
He is a lecturer and
business consultant
as well as a poet,
and lives in the
Pacific Northwest.

interlude

Star Teachers

by Æ (George William Russell)

Even as a bird sprays many-coloured fires,
The plumes of paradise, the dying light
Rays through the fevered air in misty spires
That vanish in the heights.

These myriad eyes that look on me are mine;
Wandering beneath them I have found again
The ancient ample moment, the divine,
The God-root within men.

For this, for this the lights innumerable
As symbols shine that we the true light win:
For every star and every deep they fill
Are stars and deeps within.

interlude

How the Light Comes

by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.
What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.
That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.
That it loves
searching out
what is hidden
what is lost
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.
That it has a fondness
for the body
for finding its way
toward flesh
for tracing the edges
of form
for shining forth

George William Russell (1867 – 1935) who wrote with the pseudonym Æ, was an Irish writer, editor, critic, poet, painter, and Irish nationalist.

Jan Richardson is an artist, writer, and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. Rev Richardson resides in Florida and serves as director of The Wellspring Studio, LLC. She has traveled widely as a retreat leader and conference speaker. Tonight's reading is take from *The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief*.

through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.
I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.
And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

interlude

reflection

interlude

brief silent meditation

the candle lighting

While Krista plays, feel free to light a candle at one of the walls. Let's do so mindfully and one at a time, leaving space between you and the person in front. If you're lighting a candle at home, do so as if you were in a sacred space. You are.



Prayer written by John Philip Newell. For our service tonight, we took the liberty of replacing the word "day" with "night," and the "sun's rising" was changed to "sun's setting."

closing prayer

May the angels of light
glisten for us this night.
May the sparks of God's beauty
dance in the eyes of those we love.
May the universe
be on fire with Presence for us this night.
May the new sun's setting
grace us with gratitude.
Let earth's greenness shine
and its waters breathe with Spirit.
Let heaven's winds stir the soil of our soul
and fresh awakenings rise within us.
May the mighty angels of light
glisten in all things this night.
May they summon us to reverence,
may they call us to life.
amen

postlude

TRINITY @7 WILL NOT MEET ON DEC 26 OR JAN 2.
PLEASE JOIN US IN 2022 STARTING JAN 9.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent 2021: Journeying Back Into Community

Come explore stories of journeying from exile and isolation back into community through discussion and reflection on both Old and New Testament passages on Tuesday evenings @7pm with Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke. On **Tuesday, December 14 @7pm**, we will look at some passages from 1 Peter to explore what our journey back to community looks like as being a journey to a new inheritance as citizens of a new homeland. You are invited to join Tim and Jeff on Tuesdays @7pm using this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONG1NUUowZz09>
Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk
Email Jeffrey Tooke at jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com for more information.

Christmas Concert with Paul Cena

Enjoy the beauty of seasonal music while relaxing in the calm of Trinity's sanctuary. Come to hear our very own Paul Cena perform a free Christmas organ concert on **Friday, December 17 @noon**. He will perform classical and contemporary arrangements of traditional Christmas tunes intended to explore all the sound colors of the Trinity organ.

Christmas Flower Donations

Many parishioners wish to donate to the decorating of the church at Christmas. This is gratefully accepted. To facilitate this, you can use the flower envelope found in the church pews or donate electronically [here](#) by **December 19**. Thank you for helping make Trinity the beautiful inviting place that it is with both the gifts of your presence and the gifts you donate.

The church is open by appointment for private prayer or meditation. Contact our parish administrator, Colleen O'Neill, at coneill@trinitybuffalo.org to schedule an appointment.

 Facebook: [@Trinitybuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/Trinitybuffalo)

 YouTube: [Trinity Church Buffalo](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityChurchBuffalo)

 Instagram: [@trinity.church.Buffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinity.church.Buffalo)

 Twitter: [@trinitybuffalo1](https://twitter.com/trinitybuffalo1)

www.trinitybuffalo.org • (716) 852-8314

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Trinity is an Episcopal Church in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania.

Thank you to Krista for the beautiful music.

Thank you to Matt Lincoln for bringing us together in every way he can imagine and then for being with us and reflecting from his heart.

Thank you to our host and readers.

Thank you to all the poets and musicians in the world who reflect life back to us in the most beautiful ways.

And of course, thank you.

If you'd like to visit Trinity Church in person for some quiet contemplation or to view the stunning stained glass windows, the church is open for private prayer or meditation by appointment. You are required to sign a registry at the entrance to be used in the event contact tracing is necessary. For private visits, masks are not required if you are fully vaccinated. Contact our parish administrator, Colleen O'Neill, at coneill@trinitybuffalo.org to schedule an appointment.



Trinity has worked so hard during the pandemic to keep people's spiritual lives refreshed and engaged. We kept the whole staff on payroll. We learned how to make Trinity services available online, either with Zoom or Facebook live streaming or both. We've made a commitment to continue with our communities—online and in person. Your donation can be an expression of your gratitude for Trinity and all the blessings in your life and your hope for health in the world. You can [donate online here](#), or initiate an online donation by texting by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256 OR as you exit, you can make a contribution in the Big Blue Urn. Thank you for your participation and contribution. Peace.

All services are in person AND online:

Sunday @10:30am Includes communion at an open table

Sunday @7:00pm An encounter with God through poetry, jazz, and meditation

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Wednesday @Noon Prayer and holy conversation

Thursday @7pm 12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality