



An offering of reflection, prayer, and music

Ash Wednesday

03.02.2022

Welcome to Trinity's gathered community! We are together on-site and online!

If you are at Trinity in person, please maintain appropriate distance and wear your mask, considering the fact that some of us may not be fully vaccinated or may have other vulnerabilities.

If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued. **As you watch the Live Stream, feel free to add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time!**

If you are on-site, feel free to use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshipers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down!

WiFi internet access is publicly available. Please feel free to log onto the "Trinity Open" network with the password "Welcome!"

When we don't have to practice social distancing, the people of Trinity Church gather around a table piled high with spiritual food, and there is a place for you and everyone at the table, whatever your religious practice may be. For now, even though we are not standing shoulder to shoulder for communion, we are gathered in Spirit sharing the bounty of faith. Trinity Church is a metropolitan house of prayer, a community of worship and spiritual inquiry, welcoming all people. Recognizing our common brokenness, yet rejoicing in the reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ, we nurture one another in our spiritual life together.

Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church and a member parish of the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania in the United States and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide. If you would like to learn more about Trinity, see all our contact information on the last page.

PRELUDE

CENTERING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

Guardian of the Night, and Guarantor of the day:

This day is a gift from you.

This day is like none other you

have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift

and newness and possibility.

This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day,

for we are already halfway home

halfway back to committees and memos,

halfway back to calls and appointments,

halfway on to next Sunday,

halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,

half turned toward you, half rather not.

*Cover image:
Charred Cedar
Plank, Matt
Lincoln, 2020*

*This prayer is
adapted from a poem
by Bible scholar
Walter Brueggemann.*

But this Wednesday is a long way from home, and,
while all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes —
we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:
of failed hope and broken promises,
of forgotten children and frightened women,
we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
we can taste our mortality
as we roll the ash around on our tongues.
We are able to ponder our ashness with
some confidence,
only because our every Wednesday of ashes

anticipates your Easter victory
over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you —
to you, Easter parade of newness.
Before the sun sets,
take our Wednesday and Easter us.
Easter us to joy and energy
and courage and freedom;
Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.
Come here and Easter our Wednesday with
mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.
Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

FIRST READING

JOB 42:1-6

Then Job answered God,
“I know that you can do all things: you have only to think something, and it is done.
“You asked, ‘Who is this obscuring my plans with such ignorant words?’
“That was me. I’ve been spouting off about things I can’t understand, about wonders beyond
my experience and my knowledge.
“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will ask the questions and you will answer me!’
“Formerly I knew you only by word of mouth, but now I see you with my own eyes. And so
I now take back all that I said, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

MIDDLE READING

Denise Levertov (1923 – 1997) was English born and emigrated to the US in 1947. Here she published more than 20 volumes of poetry. In the 1960s, Levertov was active in the anti-war movement in the United States. Additionally, she worked as a poetry editor for The Nation in the '60s and for Mother Jones in the '70s.

I believe the earth
exists, and
in each minim mote
of its dust the holy
glow of thy candle.
Thou
unknown I know,
thou spirit,
giver,
lover of making, of the
wrought letter,
wrought flower,
iron, deed, dream.
Dust of the earth,
help thou my
unbelief. Drift
gray become gold, in the beam of
vision. I believe with
doubt. I doubt and
interrupt my doubt with belief. Be,
beloved, threatened world.
Each minim
mote.
Not the poisonous
luminescence forced
out of its privacy,
The sacred lock of its cell
broken. No,
the ordinary glow
of common dust in ancient sunlight.
Be, that I may believe. Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

The four Gospels hold the core of Christian spiritual wisdom, reflecting the earliest stories and images of Jesus. Like all Scripture, they are not definitive prescriptions but narrative stories requiring endless interpretation.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others to attract their attention; if you do this, you will have no reward from your Abba God in heaven.

"When you do acts of charity, for example, don't have it trumpeted before you; that is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may be praised by others. The truth is, they've already received their reward in full. But when you do acts of charity, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; your good deeds must be done in secret, and your Abba God—who sees all that is done in secret—will repay you.

"And when you pray, don't behave like the hypocrites; they love to pray standing up in the synagogues and on street corners for people to see them. The truth is, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to God who

is in that secret place, and your Abba God—who sees all that is done in secret—will reward you.

"And when you fast, don't look depressed like the hypocrites. They deliberately neglect their appearance to let everyone know that they are fasting. The truth is, they have already received their reward. But when you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Don't let anyone know you're fasting except your Abba God, who sees all that is done in secret. And Abba God—who sees everything that is done in secret—will reward you.

"Don't store up earthly treasures for yourselves, which moths and rust destroy and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can destroy them and thieves cannot break in and steal them. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be as well."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AN INVITATION TO RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS OF OBSERVING LENT

To receive this blessing,
all you have to do
is let your heart break.
Let it crack open.
Let it fall apart
so that you can see
its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces
where you have hesitated
to go.

Your entire life
is here, inscribed whole
upon your heart's walls:
every path taken
or left behind,
every face you turned toward
or turned away,
every word spoken in love
or in rage,
every line of your life
you would prefer to leave
in shadow,
every story that shimmers
with treasures known
and those you have yet
to find.

The sermon invites your curiosity and thoughtfulness about the theme of worship, and is intended to evoke your thoughts rather than direct them. A recording of the sermon is posted to the parish website each week, usually by Tuesday.

"A Blessing for Ash Wednesday," by the painter and liturgical writer Jan Richardson.

Continued on next page

It could take you days
to wander these rooms.
Forty, at least.

And so let this be
a season for wandering
for trusting the breaking
for tracing the tear
that will return you

to the One who waits
who watches
who works within
the rending
to make your heart
whole.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Gracious and merciful God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all, blessing those who have engaged in a fearless moral inventory and sought to be reconciled with you, with one another, and within themselves. Create in us now, O Lord, new and reclaimed hearts, so that when we turn to you and confess our sins we will have opened ourselves fully to accept your forgiveness.

A period of silence is kept.

MARKING OURSELVES WITH DIRT OR ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given life and life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Savior we now pray. **Amen.**

PSALM 51: 11-13, 15-18

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.**

*As Job did, this year
we are marking
ourselves with ashes,
dust, or dirt.*

**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

LITANY OF PENITENCE AND HEALING

Let us pray.

Gracious God:

**We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
that there is a far distance
between what we claim to believe and value
and how we actually live our lives.**

A moment of quiet is held.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our devotion to materialism and creature comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **we confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, Beloved, and keep us close;
Favorably hear us, **for your mercy is great.**

*"To forgive is to set
a prisoner free and
discover that the
prisoner was you."
~Lewis B. Smedes*

*These Lenten
prayers are adapted
from Gleanings by
Episcopal Liturgist,
Ruth Myers.*

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Help us to remember that we are of the Earth, formed of the primal stardust, and to Earth we will return; that whether we live or die, we belong to you, O God; that we can never be lost, only found, more and more.

O God, we ask that you bless us as we enter this holy time of Lent, that it may be a time of healing and nurture for us. Protect us from self-hatred, self-violence, and addiction; help us to be faithful, gentle, healing followers of Jesus' teaching and way of life; and comfort us with your unconditional love. Help us to encounter a place of healing in our woundedness, protect us from the power of evil, and bathe us in the hope of your Resurrection.

Remind us now that we are forgiven, absolved of all we have confessed and for which we seek repentance and reconciliation. Help us to know that you do not desire our death but that we turn from our estrangement and self-orbit. May we give you thanks and praise as we receive your healing power and Holy Communion, and begin this journey of Lent. Amen.

THE PEACE

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

MUSICAL REFLECTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Now, as Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

This version of the Lord's Prayer is what many of us grew up learning. It is also the version shared at the end of many 12 Step meetings. Although it is important to stay fresh and engaged by the words of our prayers, it is also important to be reminded that we as individuals are part of a great cloud of witnesses who have been inspired to turn to God in prayer throughout the ages.

**Jesus revealed a new, personal sense of relationship with God by addressing God as something like "Papa." Always feel free to use your most meaningful name for God in saying the Lord's Prayer.*

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Let us pray:

Gracious God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

BLESSING

May the crucified Christ shatter our brittle fear, draw us together in his love and make us servants living for the world; and the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who animates and guides us be with you now and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Take Christ's wisdom, compassion and self-offering as your map as you walk the good road.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

This prayer is found in both Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer in the Book of Common Prayer.

This blessing is adapted from Prayers For An Inclusive Church, Steven Shakespeare, 2009.

Our spiritual practice is renewed as we leave here and begin again to work the promises of the covenant.



WINDOW RESTORATION FUNDRAISER - FUSING FUN

This Friday from 6 PM – 9 PM

This unique experience provides a space for anyone to create their own mini glass window using Trinity as inspiration. Come see us as part of Allentown's First Friday series! The projects will be made by placing compatible fused glass pieces together to make a design and will need to fire in the kilns for 1-2 days (like Glass Cookies!) after which they can be shipped for an additional fee or picked up on location during business hours. \$15.00 for each mini glass window.

Over 85% of the revenue from this project goes directly toward the Trinity Window Restoration Fund. Any additional you donate supports the restoration of Trinity Episcopal stained glass windows. No reservations required. Walk-ins welcome. Payments taken on site. Pay for as many projects as you make during creation, shipping options are available. Cash, check, and credit card (via paypal) all accepted. Kids as young as 5 can attend. Email the Stained Glass Association info@stainedglass.org for more information.

WINDOW RESTORATION

Trinity has been awarded a \$500,000 grant to fund a Phase I restoration and accompanying protection measures for our beautiful historic stained-glass windows. A requirement of the grant is that Trinity participate financially in the Phase I restoration. Bruce Nisbet is inviting any interested person to join an initial brainstorming session to devise creative ways to find sources outside the church (foundations, etc.) to fund this requirement. This meeting will be virtual and is **@7PM on Monday, March 7**. Please let him know of your interest to participate in this very important effort at Nisbetb@shswny.org, and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting. Thank you.

LENTEN PROGRAM: THE PSALMIST'S CRY

On **Wednesday evenings @7pm** during Lent, Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke are facilitating *The Psalmist's Cry*. In Psalmist's Cry, we explore the Psalms as scripts for lament that can help guide us toward expressing our feelings and lives honestly. We will also explore how we can embrace the danger and goodness of the Gospel, by giving up control and allowing God's mystery to unfold in our lives.

On **Wednesday, March 9 @7pm**, we will explore how we avoid taking risks, how we can create safe spaces to genuinely share ourselves, and how we can learn to experience genuine joy and grief by embracing the depth of the gospel.

Join Tim and Jeff on Wednesdays @7pm using this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONGINUUowZz09>

Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672

Passcode: trintalk

If you have questions about the group, email Jeffrey Tooke at jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com.

PULLING THE RACE CARD SPEAKERS

Wednesday, March 16 @7pm

Sarah Pearson Collins and her sister Kezia Pearson will speak at Trinity to share some of their own stories, and reflect on what moved them to develop the “Pulling the Race Card” deck. It is an interactive deck of cards designed to initiate conversation between friends, family and colleagues. It explores biases in a self-reflective manner. This discussion helps to debunk myths and stereotypes about certain groups of people.

Their talk promises to be engaging, challenging and inspiring. The event will be held in person at Trinity and will be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. No reservations or tickets are needed to attend in person. We continue to urge people to wear masks and spread out in the church’s seating area.



BOBBY MILITELLO CONCERT

Trinity’s dear friend Bobby Militello is scheduled to play at PAUSA Art House on **Friday, March 18 @7PM**. Bobby wants to celebrate his birthday with music for his friends by holding a BIRTHDAY BASH! at this marvelous music club. Why don’t we go? Ticket reservations are now available for purchase. Here’s a fun and loving way to honor Bobby by showing up on March 18 to wish him a Happy Birthday. For details about this event and to secure reservations (only), please go to the club’s link <https://www.showclix.com/event/bobby-militello-quartet-jan-281BYFYdL>.

FREE BOOKS, PLEASE TAKE SOME HOME

Please browse the bookshelf in the red carpet area and take home any books of interest. A new batch of books has replaced the old, so be sure to check out the bookshelves again.



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

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

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Sarah Caputi, Caretaker
Jay Mpezos, Caretaker

Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner

VESTRY

Kayla Kisenwether, Senior Warden
John Gillespie Jr, Junior Warden
Bing Sherrill, Treasurer
Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk
John Alduino
Erickson Contreras
Judy Fitzgerald
Edward Fries
Timothy Lane
Megan McElfresh
JoAnne Sundell
Jeffrey Tooke

CHOIR MEMBERS

Laura Munson, Section Leader
Cheryl Fisher
Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick
Christina Kinney
Suzanne Fatta, Section Leader
Gretchen Brand
Sue Doherty
Laura Schleicher, Section Leader
Carol Case Siracuse
John Clayton, Section Leader
Dan Galley
Steve Shanley
Brandon Mecklenburg, Section Leader
Tom Owen
Ignacio Villa

Readers: Gretchen Lodick, Elena Delgado, Bruce McKay

All services are in person AND online:

Sunday @10:30am In-person worship while live streaming on Facebook and YouTube. The Sunday online Live Stream service remains accessible as a video recording on Trinity's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages after the service is over.

Sunday @7:00pm Featuring poetry and jazz, in person and on Zoom.

Wednesday @Noon Prayer and holy conversation, in person and on Zoom.

Thursday @7pm Offering the wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery, in person and on Zoom.

Click here to [find the readings](#).

Email your request for a [link to the Zoom worship services here](#).