

A Service of Holy Communion October 29, 2023 Year A, Proper 25

If you would like to receive more information about Trinity Church, please sign our guest book located near the entrance. Everyone is welcome to enjoy refreshments and conversation after worship.

Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania and is a part of the Anglican Communion which is based in England but found worldwide.

Cover image: Stupa, near Namche Bazaar, Nepal, by Sebastian Pena Lambarri. Used with permission through Unsplash.com

This centering prayer is by Chaim Stern and may be found in Mishkan T'filah, published by the American Conference of Rabbis in 2007.

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

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. If you are at Trinity in person, know that this congregation supports anyone who wears a mask to reduce risk of infection. Please feel free to receive communion and participate in the service as fully as you want. If you are watching the Facebook Live Stream, you may add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time! If you are on-site, you can use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshippers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down! WiFi internet access is publicly available. Use the "Trinity Open" network with the password "Welcome!"

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. This communal worship service is many things, including an offering of your prayers. You may light a candle on one of the candle walls at any time during worship as a tangible way to make that prayer offering, or if you are online, request a candle lighting in the comments, and someone on-site will light a candle on your behalf. If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued.

Children, with all their sounds and movements, are a welcome part of the gathering for worship. It is perfectly appropriate to keep your kids with you in the pew. Additionally, there is a Kids' Corner in the back-right corner of the pews. It is an enclosed and safe space for small children (attended by their parents) to play quietly on the floor while staying in church. There is also a room in the back left corner of the church that has a rocking chair and a changing table where you can attend to your child.

Name tags are not required, but they sure help! You'll find sticky tags and markers on a table in the red carpet area near the entrance.

PRELUDE

"WALTZ" BY KRISTA SEDDON

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles.

God, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing;

Let there be moments when Your Presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk.

Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed.

And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness, and exclaim in wonder.

How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it! Amen.



Words: Albert F. Bayly (b. 1901), alt. Copyright ©1961, Albert F. Bayly, by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Blaenhafren, Welsh melody.

FIRST READING

LEVITICUS 19:1-2,15-18

God told Moses to tell the entire Israelite community these things: Be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy... Do not be corrupt in administering justice. Do not show partiality to the poor or give honor to the great. Judge your neighbor with fairness, Do not go about slandering others. Do not profit by the blood of your neighbor. I am God. Do not nurse hatred for a neighbor. If you are angry with your neighbor, speak frankly about it, to avoid storing up ill feelings. Never seek revenge or hold a grudge toward your relatives. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am God.

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

Thanks be to God.

In spirit or in body, the congregation stands to sing hymns.

The Bible readings are taken from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality.

Nobody set out to write The Bible. The Hebrew Scriptures were created over many centuries by many people to record the Jewish People's experience of God. The same is true of the Christian Scriptures, some of which were letters written to a specific audience in response to specific needs—and were then found to be helpful to the faithful even after fulfilling their original purpose.

This echo is well known from the musical Godspell by John-Michael Tebelak with music by Stephen Schwartz. The words of this song are based on a prayer by 13th-century English bishop Saint Richard of Chichester.

The Middle Reading fills the role of a Bible reading, but it doesn't come from the Bible. It is our way of trying to listen for God's ongoing word as it is spoken outside the limits of the Bible. Most often, we turn to contemporary poets for this reading.

Maya Angelou (1928-2014) was a writer and civil rights activist, and also an actor, screenwriter, and dancer. Her most popular work may be her autobiography, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.

It is customary (but not required) to stand for the Gospel reading because it symbolizes the mystical presence of Christ.

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.

ECHO (Sing through 2 times.)

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray:

To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

MIDDLE READING

"Touched by an Angel" by Maya Angelou

"DAY BY DAY"

We, unaccustomed to courage exiles from delight live coiled in shells of loneliness until love leaves its high holy temple and comes into our sight to liberate us into life.

Love arrives and in its train come ecstasies old memories of pleasure ancient histories of pain. Yet if we are bold, love strikes away the chains of fear from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity In the flush of love's light we dare be brave And suddenly we see that love costs all we are and will ever be. Yet it is only love which sets us free.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO (Sing through 2 times.) see above

"DAY BY DAY"

GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 22:34-46

hen the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: "Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?" Jesus answered, "'You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.' That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well."

While the Pharisees were gathered around him, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is the Messiah?" They said, "David's." Then Jesus asked, "Then how is it that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls the Messiah, 'Sovereign'? For he says, 'The Most High said to my Sovereign, "Sit at my right hand until I place your

enemies under your foot." If David calls the Messiah 'Sovereign,' how can the Messiah be a descendant of David?" No one could reply, and from that day on no one dared ask him any more questions.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO "Day by day"

see previous page

SERMON THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Affirmation of Faith
You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who loved and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God of peace, we pray for the Israeli and Palestinian people in these perilous times.

For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves, we pray that the assurance of unfailing love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them. Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.

For all who are wounded, we pray they find healing.

For all who have died, we pray they find rest.

For all who grieve, we pray they find comfort.

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.

In spirit or in body, please stand.

This affirmation of faith comes to us from the Book of Common Prayer of New Zealand. Like the Nicene Creed that it reflects, it is an expression of faith intended as a symbol of solidarity with other Christians throughout history but not as a pledge of allegiance required for membership.

For leaders on all sides, we pray for a renewed will to lay down arms, for the strength to put the grievances and wrongs suffered by their people to rest, and for the conviction to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all of your children.

God of mercy, help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection, no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.

God of justice, we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and that a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail. **Amen.**

Add your requests by scaning the QR code



We remember those for whom our prayers have been asked.

Dale Worwa Jeff Watson Scott Howard Grace Kokot Larry Haney Bruce Nisbet Jack & Cody Pelc and their parents Celeste Richel Kathy Jerzewski Regina Glaser Mary & Jack Hertenstein Betsy and Peter Curtis Trey Bankhead

O Lover of Souls, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Give us vision and wisdom, and the strength and trust to respond to your call.

Where we can help, give us the determination and generosity to do so. When our neighbor needs only the courage to face difficulty, give us the patience and wisdom to listen and encourage in love.

We pray for those who struggle in poverty or under oppression, and for those who care for them. We pray for those in any need or trouble.

We pray for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. We pray for equity, mutual regard, and peace.

We pray for those who are sick or sick at heart. We pray for all who suffer from illness or injury, from mental illness or heartbreak, sadness or loneliness.

We pray for those who have died and those who are bereaved. We pray for consolation and hope.

We pray for the generosity of spirit to forgive those who betray us. We pray for the courage to face our own faults, and to seek forgiveness when we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves, trusting that we are all beloved in your sight, O God.

Refrain:

Those who sow, who sow in tears, will reap in joy, will reap in joy. Those who sow, who sow in tears, will reap, will reap in joy.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Now would be a great time to add a comment to the Live Stream!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"GOD FASHIONED LOVE" BY LINDA AND CAROL MUEHLIG

ALTO SOLOIST: SUZANNE FATTA

God fashioned love and gave it as a gift
For each to share and give again,
That through all generations love might sift
As wheat from chaff to make an increase of the best,
That time and wind might have the rest.

God fashioned love and gave from heaven's store For each to share and give again, That through all generations love might pour As wine from water by a miracle can pass, That every hand might take the glass.

God fashioned love and gave it mankind's cast For each to share and give again, That through all generations love might last As Christ is born in every child God gives So love, though yet all die, shall live.

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

All are welcome to receive Communion at Trinity Church. No Exceptions!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

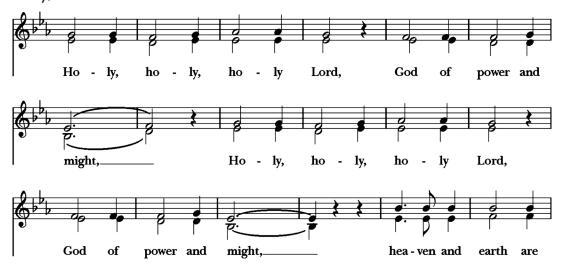
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

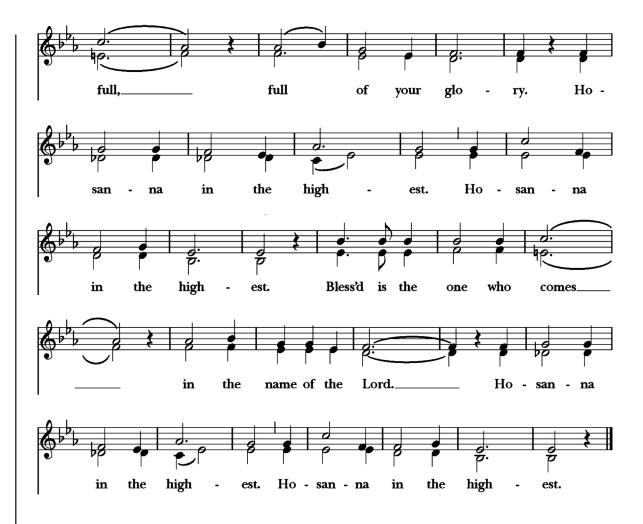
It is always right, and a good thing to thank God for creation and for the love with which God made and sustains and redeems all of existence. The last night Jesus gathered with his closest friends, he gave them the promise that he would always be with them, nourishing them as truly as the food and drink that sustain us day by day. **Because of their faithfulness, and the care with which they and the generations who followed have handed on that faith, we know the story of that night, and we too receive that promise.** So we join our voices with saints and angels, across time and space, outside of time and space who forever say,



Your financial support is not only a practical necessity. It can also be a very meaningful symbolic gesture, expressing your gratitude for the blessings in your life and your hope for health in the world. You can place cash or a check in the collection plate when it is brought around during the offertory or donate online here, or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256. You can also get there by scanning this *OR code:*

This Eucharistic Prayer is by Matt Lincoln.

Sanctus from Schubert's Deutsche Messe



Gracious God, somehow, it was not enough to make a universe. It seems you needed the joy of sharing it and sharing the process of creativity. So you included us in creation, making us in your image, to love and to create freely, as you do.

Yet, as we are free to love, so we are free to hate, and throughout human history, we have chosen to abandon your way as often as we have followed it. **But you have not abandoned us.** Instead, you poured yourself into human form, becoming one with us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, your son.

To show us the fullness of that offering, on the night before it was completed on the cross, Jesus ate supper with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and said, "Take, eat. This is my Body given for you. Every time you eat bread, do so in remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, blessed it, gave it to his friends and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me."

Now accept our offering of thanks and praise, and send your Holy Spirit to bless us and this bread and wine to be the body and blood of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Give us grace to hope and trust that your Spirit lives in us and we in you, so we may have courage to love the world boldly in your name. Through Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, who live and reign with you, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

God, who cares for us,

The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe.

Let kindness, justice and love shine in our world.

Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.

Give us the food and the hope we need for today.

Forgive us our wrongdoing

as we forgive the wrongs done to us.

Protect us from pride and from despair

and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.

In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,

while worlds come and go.

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Were not our hearts burning within us as we walked along the road?

RECEIVING COMMUNION

For those of you online at home, provide yourself with a morsel of bread and a sip of wine or any suitable substitutes you have.

For those in the building, you have several options: 1) stay in your place and receive communion from a communion kit that you picked up in the entrance to the church, or 2) bring a communion kit with you to the gathering near the altar and receive it in the company of others, or 3) come up to the altar and receive a piece of pita or a gluten-free cracker, or 4) come up, receive a piece of pita or gluten free cracker and ask the celebrant to dip it in the chalice so you can receive the wine as well.

PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray:

Amen.

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and remembering the body of Christ,
which has been broken for the life of the world.
Now give us grace to trust that we are
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed.
Give us the courage to proclaim your love to the world,
and to continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

May your eyes be so blessed that you see God in everyone
Your lips - so you speak nothing but the truth
Your ears - so that you hear the cry of the poor
May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch becomes a sacrament
Your feet - so that you run to those who need you
And may your heart be so opened
So set on fire

That your love changes everything.

And may the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who animates and guides us be with you now and always. **Amen.**

We are following a pattern of going back and forth between using an alternative interpretation of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks and then using the traditional Prayer Book version for a few weeks.

This version of the Lord's Prayer was written by Monica Furlong (1930-2003), a British author, journalist, and activist.

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.

This blessing was offered by the Rev. Brian Baker at Burning Man 2015. In spirit or in body, the congregation stands to sing hymns.

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



DISMISSAL

Go in peace, following the way of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

"TOCCATA & FUGUE IN D MINOR" (BWV 565) BY J.S. BACH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trinity Discussion Group: Calming Your Inner Critic

Negative self-talk can produce several emotions and can affect our relationships with people and with God. We watch a short video and discuss how our lack of self-love can detract from the life we want to live and affects our love of neighbor. Join Tim Lane and Jeff Tooke on **Wednesdays @7pm** using the zoom link below:

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

Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk

Questions? Please email Jeffrey Tooke at jeffreytooke@outlook.com.

Cards for Sale

Trinity window cards for sale after the 10:30 service on Sunday. \$15 for five cards, \$5 for one. They make great Christmas cards, hostess gifts, sympathy cards, etc. All proceeds benefit the restoration of our treasured windows.

Looming Deadline: October 29

Order your chicken dinners before it's too late! To benefit Trinity, we're selling Weidner's barbecue chicken on **Sunday, November 5**, after the morning service until Ipm. Dinners are \$15 and include macaroni and cheese and glazed baby carrots. Yum. We'll also have desserts available that day for cash sales. Dinners are pre-sale only. You won't have to cook AND you're helping the church. What a deal. **Place your order TODAY, before 5pm.**

Volunteer Bakers

are needed for **Nov 5.** Baked goods to be sold in the chapel while people are picking up their chicken dinners. You can bring your item to church the morning of Sunday, Nov 5. If you can help, please email Teresa Maciocha at tmaciocha@aol.com. Thank you.

Friends of Night People

We are looking for volunteers to help out at Friends of Night People, which provides food, clothing, medical care, counseling and other necessities to people in our community experiencing homelessness and poverty. We would love to have you join us on the **second Monday** of each month from 4:45-7. Questions? Speak to Emily Carlin or email: emily.g.carlin@gmail.com

Worship Helpers Needed

Are you willing to be involved with reading from the altar or greeting people at the door and helping direct them with what to expect? Please sign up at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fafa629a3f58-trinity2. If you are interested in being more involved, but aren't interested in either of these roles, you can also plan on helping during services by bringing a device to connect to Facebook viewers and responding to comments during the service.



Comfort and Care Team

The Comfort and Care Team is here to help and support to you or someone you know experiencing health or other life challenges. Email any one of us to request prayers, a caring phone call, notes, information on resources, a friendly visit, or arranging meals.

Phoebe McKay, phoebemckay@gmail.com; Judy Atkinson-Miller, jatk1812@gmail.com; Susie Green, susie432@gmail.com; Patti Nisbet, tudorspace@aol.com; Victoria Kearns, kearns.vr@gmail.com; and Marie Keane, MNMKeane@msn.com

Slow Down Yoga

Yoga has returned to Trinity! **Tuesdays @noon** we learn and practice slowing down, tuning in, and taking care with a gentle, mindful yoga class for any level of skill. Facilitated by Heather Henry Rawlins, LMHC, RYT200, one of several therapists occupying Trinity spaces, this Hatha yoga-based practice moves with care to cultivate calm awareness, stability, and flexibility as well as practices for calming the nervous system and feeling grounded in the body—a good practice for interrupting the accumulations of stress in mind and body and feeling vividly present and full of ease. To sign up, click here or email Heather at hhenryrawlins@gmail.com



First Sunday Brunch

Next week following the 10:30 service, join Trinity friends for brunch at Mexican restaurant Taqueria Ranchos Dos. Located at 445 Delaware Ave (between Edward and Virginia Streets), the restaurant is north 1½ blocks walking distance from the church.

Computer Volunteer Ministry Opportunity

We are looking for a couple computer savvy volunteers who would be interested in volunteering as cyber sacristan to help with the livestream for the Sunday morning service and/or the Trinity @7 service. One only needs to be comfortable with using a computer and computer programs; the rest are easily learnable skills. If you'd like to know more or are interested in this volunteer ministry, please contact Jeffrey Tooke at jeffreytooke@outlook.com



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STAFF

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The Rev. William Roberts, Assisting Priest

Jeffrey Tooke, Cyber Sacristan

Julie Keller-Rizzo, "Voice of Trinity" on

Facebook

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

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Janene Gall, Environmental Services

VESTRY

John Gillespie Jr, Senior Warden John Alduino, Junior Warden Bing Sherrill, Treasurer

Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk

Emily Carlin

Erickson Contreras

Chris Cuccia Sue Doherty Judy Fitzgerald Tim Lane Megan McElfresh

JoAnne Sundell Jeffrey Tooke

CHOIR MEMBERS

Laura Munson, Section Leader

Cheryl Fisher

Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick

Christina Kinney

Suzanne Fatta, Section Leader

Sue Doherty

Laura Schleicher, Section Leader

Carol Siracuse

John Clayton, Section Leader

Steve Shanley

Tim Lane, Section Leader

Tom Owen Ignacio Villa

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Greeters: JoAnne Sundell, Phoebe McKay

Karl Bernhardt, Missy Stolfi, Patti Nisbet Readers:

Marie Keane Prayers: Announcements: IoAnne Sundell

Altar Servers: Jeffrey Tooke, Jill Hilburger

Baker: Phoebe McKay Counter: IoAnne Sundell

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 in the Chapel and on Zoom

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

Thursday @7pm The wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery, in person and on

Zoom

Email your request for a link to the Zoom worship services here.







