



A Service of Holy Communion

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

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:
"Roots in the River"
by Matt Lincoln, 2005

This centering prayer was written by Matt Lincoln, based on a quotation from Tirabassi & Grant, An Improbable Gift of Blessing.

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

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. If your baby or toddler would be happier being able to crawl around and play, there are Kids' Corners in both side aisles. These are enclosed and safe spaces for small children (attended by their parents) to play quietly on the floor while staying in church. Additionally, there is 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's needs. You may also choose to take advantage of our nursery which is available for toddlers through age 5.

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

"TENDERLY" BY WALTER GROSS AND JACK LAWRENCE

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray responsively.

This church is a field where mustard seeds are planted.

Oh, God, let our small faith grow.

This church is a loaf leavened with your hope.

Oh God, let our trust rise with your Spirit.

This church is prepared for a banquet.

**Oh, God, let us come dressed in the garment of love,
which holds all together in harmony. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"O Healing River"



1. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
2. This land is parch - ing, this land is
3. Let the seed of free - dom, a - wake and



wa - ters, Send down your wa - ters up - on this
 burn - ing, No seed is grow - ing in the bar - ren
 flour - ish, Let the deep roots nour - ish, let the tall stalks



land. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 ground. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 rise. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your



wa - ters, And wash the blood from off the sand.
 wa - ters, O heal - ing riv - er, send your wa - ters down.
 wa - ters, O heal - ing riv - er, from out of the skies.

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 17:5-10

God says:
 “Cursed are those who trust in human ways,
 who rely on things of the flesh,
 whose hearts turn away from God.
 They are like stunted vegetation in the desert
 with no hope in the future.
 It stands in stony wastes in the desert,
 an uninhabited land of salt.
 Blessed are those who put their trust in God,
 with God for their hope.
 They are like a tree planted by the river
 that thrusts its roots toward the stream.
 When the heat comes it feels no heat;
 its leaves stay green.
 It is untroubled in a year of drought,
 and never ceases to bear fruit.
 The human heart is more deceitful
 than anything else,
 and desperately sick—who can understand it?
 I, God, search into the heart, I probe the mind,
 to give to each person
 what their actions and conduct deserve.”

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

Thanks be to God.

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.

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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.

Lucille Clifton (1936–2010) was an American poet, writer, and educator from Buffalo (Depew), New York. She graduated from the State University of New York College at Fredonia. From 1979 to 1985 she was Poet Laureate of Maryland. Clifton was a finalist twice for the Pulitzer Prize for poetry.

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

ECHO

“TUI AMORIS”

Ho - ly Spi - rit , come to us, kin - dle in us the flame of your love.

Ho - ly Spi - rit, come to us, Ho - ly Spi - rit, come to us.

MIDDLE READING

“WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?” BY LUCILLE CLIFTON

the side of the busstop woman
 trying to drag her bag
 up the front steps before the doors
 clang shut i am on her side
 i give her exact change
 and him the old man hanging by
 one strap his work hand folded shut
 as the bus doors i am on his side
 when he needs to leave
 i ring the bell i am on their side
 riding the late bus into the same
 someplace i am on the dark side always
 the side of my daughters
 the side of my tired sons

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

“TUI AMORIS”

see above

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 6:17-26

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon—people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours.
 You who hunger now are blessed, for you'll be filled.

You who weep now are blessed, for you'll laugh.
You are blessed when people hate you,
when they scorn and insult you
and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One.
On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven,
for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.
But woe to you rich, for you are now receiving your comfort in full.
Woe to you who are full, for you'll go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now, for you'll weep in your grief.
Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.”

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

see previous page

SERMON

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's Creation.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the
Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

“TUI AMORIS”

THE REV. JEFFREY TOOKE

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.

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 comes from the United Church of Canada. 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

In particular, we have been asked to pray for:

Mark Taylor

Brian Reilly & his family

- may they find closure & answers to their missing sister, Liechiea Reilly

Antoinette O'Donnell and her family dealing with Alzheimers

Chris Cuccia - successful surgery and recovery

Marcus - to keep an open mind

Marie Smith

Fata Haskovic

Maryanne Nowacki - battling multiple myeloma

Cameron - recovery from surgery

Joe Silvestri - recovering from a stroke

Paul Werner- recovering from a stroke

Alphonso and Marcia O'Neil-White

Margaret (Peggy) Rizzo - suffers from Alzheimer's

Betsy and Peter Curtis

Eddy Lock, who has died, and all who mourn him

Loving God, you have set us in families and clans, in cities and neighborhoods. Our common life began in a garden, but our destiny lies in the city. You have placed us in and around Buffalo. This is our home. Your creativity is on display here through the work of human hearts and hands. We pray for Buffalo today—for the East Side and the West Side, North Buffalo and South Buffalo. We pray for people from the First Ward and the Fruit Belt. We pray for our poorest neighbors and for powerful people in banks and businesses downtown.

We pray for neighboring communities from across our partnership: from Olcott to Olean, from Angola to Albion, from Erie to Edinboro, from Emporium to New Castle and a thousand other cities connected to our own.

In all our neighborhoods this day there will be crime and callous moneymaking; there will be powerful people unable or unwilling to see the vulnerable who are their neighbors. There will also be beautiful acts of compassion and creativity in all these places—forgiveness and generosity; neighbors working together for a more just community.

Help us see this place as something other than a battleground between us and them, where our imaginations are limited by win/lose propositions and endless rivalry. Show us a deeper reality, God: Show us your Beloved Community.

We pray for the protection of all people around the world from infectious diseases and other illness. We pray for people who are hungry or homeless, and for all who are in danger of violent attack, especially those in the Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. We pray also for all who are lonely, all who are overwhelmed by difficult circumstances, or trapped in harmful relationships. We pray for all who grieve, and all who live in fear. We pray for all who are dependent on the

*Add your requests
by scanning the
QR code.*



*These prayers are
an effort to pray
with one voice even
though we have a
diversity of needs
and hopes.*

compassionate care of others, and for those who work tirelessly to care for the ones who are in need. We pray for our beautiful planet, and for the wisdom and will to stop climate change.

Prosper our city, and help us to trust that you are God, we pray in the name of the one who wept over the Holy City, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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

“LAUDAMUS TE” BY A. VIVALDI

Soprano soloists: Laura Munson and Laura Schleicher

Text:

Laudamus te, benedicimus te.

Adoramus te, glorificamus te.

English:

We praise thee, we adore thee.

We adore thy name, glory to thy name.

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

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

All things come of thee, O Lord;

and of thine own have we given thee.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

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?

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 the QR code.



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.*

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.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion, regardless of religious background or affiliation. For those of you online, you are invited to have a morsel of bread and a sip of wine (or any substitutes you choose) during the time that communion is being shared.

For those in the building, you are invited to come forward and make a large circle around the perimeter of the open area, where you will be offered a morsel of bread dipped in wine. Please let the ministers of communion know if you prefer not to have your bread dipped in the wine. Also, let them know if you need a gluten-free wafer instead of wheat bread.

PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray:

**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.**

HYMN

“LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS”



1. What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine,
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way,
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

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



1. Lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; What a bless - ed - ness,
 2. Lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; O how bright the path
 3. Lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; I have bless - ed peace



1. what a peace is mine, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 2. grows from day to day, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 3. with my Lord so near, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing, lean - ing, Lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to shine in the world with God's light. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

POSTLUDE

“ALL OF YOU” BY COLE PORTER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PURCHASE TICKETS



HELPER SIGNUP



Krista Seddon's Trinity Jazz Series

"Four Crown Jewels of Buffalo's Musical Heyday: The Artists, Their Stories, Their Music"

March 14 @7pm "The Statler Downtown Room"

April 11 @7pm "Kleinhans Music Hall"

May 9 @7pm "Shea's Performing Arts Center"

All concerts are held in the Trinity Chapel 371 Delaware Ave

[Purchase tickets here](#) or scan the QR code. Tickets also available at the door.

If you'd like to help make this evening a success, please [sign up here](#) to volunteer or scan the QR code. There are various roles needed including tickets sales and reception setup and cleanup.

Coldest Night of the Year

It's Year 4 of the Coldest Night of the Year Walk in Buffalo, supporting Compass House. This year's walk will take place on **Saturday, February 22**, kicking off at the Parkside Lodge. This all-ages walk raises funds and awareness for the mission of Compass House, supporting homeless and runaway youth and young adults in the Buffalo area. Visit cnoy.com/buffalo and search Team Trinity to join us at Delaware Park or to support with a donation to Compass House! Email Missy Stolfi at missy.stolfi@gmail.com with any questions.

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for a couple of volunteers interested in assisting with maintaining and preparing the materials for the altar and communion. Duties can include any combination of the following you are comfortable with: preparing communion elements, washing dishes from communion, laundering altar linens, coordinating altar decorating for special services. You can contact Tim Lane t.w.lane@outlook.com for more details.

Worship Helpers Needed

Are you willing to be involved with reading from the altar, greeting people at the door and helping direct them with what to expect, providing hospitality by baking for coffee hour, or helping serve communion to the gathered community? Please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fafa629a3f58-trinity2> or reach out to Jeffrey Tooke at jeffreytooke@outlook.com to be placed on a list of volunteers when we have worship volunteer slots to fill. If you are interested in being more involved, but aren't interested in any 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.

Visiting Trinity

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.

Comfort and Care Team

The Comfort and Care Team is here to help and support 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

Susie Green, susie432@gmail.com

Patti Nisbet, tudorspace@aol.com

Marie Keane, MNMKeane@gmail.com

Sara Merritt, smerrit172@gmail.com

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Creative Restorations is seeking dedicated volunteers to assist with the operation of their food pantry, which serves those in need in our community. They are looking for help on **Mondays** from **9am-Noon**, **Wednesdays** from **12-3pm**, and **Fridays** from **3-6pm**. If you are interested in lending a hand and making a difference, please reach out to Chris Harzynski at 716-553-4886. Your support would be greatly appreciated!

Hamlin Park School Monthly Community Event

Each event has a theme and is open to all. They are always looking for volunteers. The times and dates are:

Saturday Academy 10am-1pm: March 8, April 5, May 3

Thursday evening 4:30-6pm: April 3

Trinity members would be welcome to any of these. For more information, you can contact the Say Yes To Education coordinator Nikki Cocerez at ncocerez@sayyesbuffalo.org or (716)388-1572.

Explore Buffalo

Learn more about Trinity's windows and the impact they have had on American art history. Share this Buffalo treasure with your friends! Explore Buffalo leads tours of Trinity's windows as part of its Sacred Spaces series. Check the website listed below or scan the QR code for the schedule. <https://explorebuffalo.org/sacred-spaces/trinity-episcopal-church/>



Computer 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

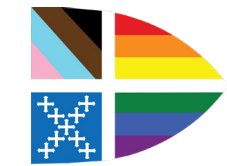
Parking at Trinity's Franklin Street Lot

When you come to a church service, you can park in Trinity's Franklin Street lot for free. Neither will the parking fees be enforced during Trinity events. But you can use the lot any other time you are in the neighborhood, too! Park in your church's lot any time you would have to pay for parking in the neighborhood so that Trinity gets the parking fee! Use your smartphone to pay.





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



Facebook: @Trinitybuffalo
YouTube: Trinity Church Buffalo
Instagram: @trinity.church.buffalo
www.trinitybuffalo.org • (716) 852-8314

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The Rev. Deacon Jeffrey Tooke, Curate

The Rev. William Roberts, Assisting Priest

Colleen O'Neill, Parish Administrator and Director of Children's Ministries
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Rich Mpezos, Facility Manager
rmpezos@trinitybuffalo.org

Willow D'Agostino, Caretaker
Jay Mpezos, Caretaker

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Voice of Trinity (Facebook): Julie Keller-Rizzo
Cyber Sacristan: Barbara Griesman, Christian Eshelman
Greeter: Judy Fitzgerald
Readers: Don Ingalls, Patti Nisbet, Jeffrey Tooke
Prayers: Missy Stolfi
Announcements: Susan Doherty
Ministers of Communion: Ed Fries, Judy Fitzgerald, Clint Brown
Guest musician: Andy Weinzler, saxophone
Counters: Susan Doherty
Baker: Gretchen Lodick

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. There will be no service this Wednesday, February 19.

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](#).

VESTRY

Erickson Contreras, Senior Warden
JoAnne Sundell, Junior Warden
Bing Sherrill, Treasurer
Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk
Clint Brown
Emily Carlin
Chris Cuccia
Sue Doherty
Connie Ervin
Jane Kearns
Megan McElfresh
Jess Poleon
Missy Stolfi
Cindy Stroud

CHOIR MEMBERS

John Clayton, Section Leader
Sue Doherty
Christina Kinney
Tim Lane, Section Leader
Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick
Laura Munson, Section Leader
Tom Owen
Jennifer Ross
Laura Schleicher, Section Leader
Chris Schmigel
Steve Shanley
Jamie Toenniessen
Jocelyn Toenniessen, Section Leader
Ignacio Villa