

A Service of Holy Communion

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

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.

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. That same room is also currently serving as the 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

"THE NEARNESS OF YOU" BY HOAGY CARMICHAEL

CENTERING PRAYER

We wake to the forgiveness of a new day.
We wake to the freedom to begin again.
We wake to the mercy of the sun's redeeming light.
Always new,
always gift,
always blessing.
We wake to the forgiveness of this new day.

Amen.

This centering prayer is by John Philip Newell from Praying With The Earth.

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

HYMN

"Morning has broken"

Unison or harmony

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt., Copyright © by permission of David Higham Associates Limited, London. Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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

FIRST READING

ACTS 9:1-6

Meanwhile Saul continued to breathe murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus. He had gone up to the high priest and asked for letters, addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way that he could find, both women and men. As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed about him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” “Who are you?” Saul asked. The voice answered, “I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, where you will be told what to do.”

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

Thanks be to God.

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.

"My Sweet Lord" by George Harrison, was released in November 1970.

ECHO

My sweet Lord, ooh, my Lord, ooh, my Lord.

I real-ly want to see you. Real-ly wan-na be with you. Real-ly wan-na see you, Lord but it takes
I real-ly want to know you. Real-ly wan-na go with you. I real-ly wan-na show you, Lord that it won't

so long my Lord. My sweet Lord, ooh, my Lord, ooh, my Lord.
take long my Lord. My sweet Lord, ooh, my Lord, ooh, my Lord.

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*.

MIDDLE READING

Lying, thinking
Last night
How to find my soul a home
Where water is not thirsty
And bread loaf is not stone
I came up with one thing
And I don't believe I'm wrong
That nobody,
But nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

There are some millionaires
With money they can't use
Their wives run round like banshees
Their children sing the blues
They've got expensive doctors
To cure their hearts of stone.
But nobody

"ALONE" BY MAYA ANGELOU

No, nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Now if you listen closely
I'll tell you what I know
Storm clouds are gathering
The wind is gonna blow
The race of man is suffering
And I can hear the moan,
'Cause nobody,
But nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

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

ECHO

see above

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

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 21:1-19

Later Jesus again was manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place. Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas "the Twin," Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going out to fish." "We'll join you," they replied, and went off to get into their boat. All through the night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. He said to them, “Have you caught anything, friends?” “Not a thing,” they answered. “Cast your net off to the starboard side,” Jesus suggested, “and you’ll find something.” So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn’t haul the net in.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, “It’s the Teacher!” Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak—he was naked—and jumped into the water. Meanwhile the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from land—no more than a hundred yards.

When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. “Bring some of the fish you just caught,” Jesus told them. Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish—one hundred fifty-three of them. In spite of the great number, the net was not torn. “Come and eat your meal,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared to ask, “Who are you?”—they knew it was the savior. Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon ben-John, do you love me more than these?” Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” A second time Jesus put the question, “Simon ben-John, do you love me?” Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.” Jesus replied, “Tend my sheep.” A third time Jesus asked him, “Simon ben-John, do you love me as a friend would?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, “Do you love me?” a third time. So he said, “You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. The truth of the matter is, when you were young, you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you get old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will put a belt around you and take you where you don’t want to go.”

With these words, Jesus indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then the savior said, “Follow me.”

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

“Hallelujah Changes”



Hal-le - lu jah, Hal-le lu jah, Hal - le - lu jah, Hal - le - lu jah!

SERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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 affirmation,
written by Matt
Lincoln, is an
adaptation of the
Nicene Creed. Like
the creed on which
it is based, 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.*

*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.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, who is the source of all creation, seen and unseen.

We trust that God's divine life is conceived by God and was born in the human form of Jesus through his mother Mary.

In his life, death and resurrection, Jesus embodied God's self-giving love for the world and God's will to regenerate life, and to reclaim us from the oblivion of death.

We trust that the Spirit of God is present in this world, in our hearts, and within the community of faith, guiding us into all truth and inspiring us to love as we have been loved, to create as we have been created.

Amen.

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:

Jack Barrett and his family - cope with health concern

John Michael

Jeff Watson

Jimmie Pitts - recovering from surgery

Kathy Chase, recovering from a car accident

Karen Hock - in rehab for two broken kneecaps

Pete - throat cancer

Jack LaMothe - continued healing

Onofrio Palazzo - successful surgery and recovery

Linda Harris - battling stage 4 lung cancer

Maryanne Nowacki - battling multiple myeloma

Alphonso and Marcia O'Neil-White

Betsy and Peter Curtis

For those who died and all who mourn them - Chris Cuccia, Meg Connelly, and Ron Alsheimer

Creating God, from the origin of our species, you fitted us with a grand vision for abundant life and community that most often exceeds our grasp: We bring before you today our desire for peace, our confession of neglect, and our promise to uphold the dignity of every human being. And we affirm our trust: **neither things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God.**

Gracious God, your intimate presence and the depth of your love have the power to heal us: We bring before you today our grief and sorrow, our illness and wounds, our addictions and compulsions, and a host of needs we dread to mention. And we affirm our trust: **neither death, nor life, nor rulers, nor powers, nor anything else in all creation, will separate us from your love, O God.**

Life Giving God, we know that you have a dream for us, and that when we are living into it, the abundance of your grace is palpable: Grant us open hearts and open minds to know that what was old is being made new, what was locked away is being released, and what was cast down is being raised up. And we affirm our trust: **neither things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God. 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

Text:

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes,
Laudate eum omnes populi.
Quoniam conformatus est
Super nos misericordia eius et veritas
Domini manet in aeternum.

Gloria Patri, et filio et Spiritui Sancto
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et
Semper et in saecula saeculorum, Amen.

“LAUDATE DOMINUM” BY W.A. MOZART
SOPRANO SOLOIST: LAURA MUNSON

Translation:

O praise our God all ye nations,
Praise him all ye people
For all his loving kindness
Is ever more and more toward us,
His truth, the truth of Jehovah endureth forever.

Glory to the Father, the son and Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen.

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.

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing to live openly in the presence of God and one another as grateful people. Splendor and honor are yours God of all being, your power sustains, your endless love restores this broken world. Always present with us, **you bring patterns to the chaos, and fill our emptiness.** Resurrection brings the dawn of hope. The light of Christ kindles life in us, and leads us to walk in your light. **Your Holy Spirit is fire in us, your breath warms our hearts to love.** As children of your redeeming purpose, freed when Christ burst from the tomb, we offer you our praise with Angels and Archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing your eternal glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly
ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

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 QR code:



This Eucharistic Prayer is adapted from Eucharistic Prayer IV, The Scottish Liturgy 1982 in the book Gleanings.

Sanctus from Lift Every Voice and Sing, an African American hymnal

Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

On the night before Jesus was given up to death, at supper with the disciples, Jesus took bread, offered thanks to you, broke it, gave it to his friends and said: **“Take, eat, this is my Body given for you.”** After supper, he took the cup, offered thanks, gave it to them and said: **“This is my Blood of the new Covenant poured out for you, and for all. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb, and the women’s sorrow changed to joy. In the garden Mary found the truth: the One whom they had loved and lost was restored to them in every place and for ever. And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

One in Christ, we offer you these gifts, and with them ourselves, a holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, merciful God: **send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and wine that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ; kindle in us the fire of your love, renew us for the service of your kingdom.**

Help us live and work in gratitude to you; that we may grow together in unity and love until, at last, in your new creation, we enter into the company of the apostles and prophets and of all

our sisters and brothers, the living and the dead; through Jesus Christ by whom, with whom, and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours throughout all ages, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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?

RECEIVING COMMUNION

For those of you online at home, 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.**

BLESSING

Life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. 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 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.*

This blessing is based on the words of Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881).

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

*Some of the
music in this
service used with
permission to
podcast/stream/
reproduce under
OneLicense,
License #A-
700776. All
rights reserved.
Other music
from Church
Publishing
(Hymnal 1982;
Wonder Love
& Praise; Lift
Every Voice
and Sing II)
is reproduced
under a license
from RiteSong.
All rights
reserved.*

HYMN

“WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME”



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but
4. Will you love the “you” you hide if I but
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but



call your name? Will you go where
call your name? Will you care for
call your name? Will you set the
call your name? Will you quell the
call my name? Let me turn and



you don't know and nev - er be the
cruel and kind and nev - er be the
pris - oners free and nev - er be the
fear in - side and nev - er be the
fol - low you and nev - er be the



same? Will you let my love be
same? Will you risk the hos - tile
same? Will you kiss the lep - er
same? Will you use the faith you've
same. In your com - pan - y I'll



shown, will you let my name be
stare should your life at - tract or
clean and do such as this un-
found to re - shape the world a-
go where your love and foot - steps



known, will you let my life be
 scare, will you let me ans - wer
 seen and ad - mit to what I
 round through my sight and touch and
 show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?
 prayer in you and you in me?
 mean in you and you in me?
 sound in you and you in me?
 grow in you and you in me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, rejoicing in the power of the resurrection! Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“BLUESETTE” BY TOOTS THIELEMANS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get Ready to Fiesta! Music, Taco Bar, and Fun!

Join us for a Trinity Cinco de Mayo celebration **TODAY @noon**. Try your hand at breaking open the pinata for special treats. Dress in your most festive colors and come sip on a tasty beverage. Gluten-free and vegan options will be available.

Trinity Discussion Group: Spring 2025 Book Study

Join Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke on Wednesdays @7pm via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk) starting **Wednesday, May 7** for a seven-week book study of John Pavlovitz’s new book *Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending*. Explore how to maintain our Christian values and perspective within the current challenging environment that threatens our democracy and our desired values of compassion and mercy. Books are available to borrow from the church or purchase [here](#). Please email Jeffrey Tooke at jeffreytooke@outlook.com for more information.

Krista Seddon’s Trinity Jazz Series

“Four Crown Jewels of Buffalo’s Musical Heyday: The Artists, Their Stories, Their Music”

May 9 @7pm “Shea’s Performing Arts Center”

All concerts are held in the Trinity Chapel, 371 Delaware Ave.

[Purchase tickets here](#). 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.

Chris Cuccia

We are deeply saddened to report that vestry member Chris Cuccia died on Thursday, April 10. His service will be held at Trinity on **May 10 @1:00pm**.

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

Purchase tickets

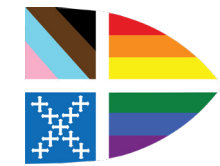


Volunteer to help





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



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

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

Instagram: [@trinitychurch.buffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinitychurch.buffalo)

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

371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

STAFF

The Rev. Matthew R. Lincoln, Rector
mlincoln@trinitybuffalo.org
(716) 852-8314 ext. 2

Krista Seddon, Director of Ensembles; Pianist
krista@kristaseddon.com
www.kristaseddon.com

Paul Cena, Organist and Choir Director
prcena@verizon.net

The Rev. Deacon Jeffrey Tooke, Curate

The Rev. William Roberts, Assisting Priest

Colleen O'Neill, Parish Administrator and Director of Children's Ministries
coneill@trinitybuffalo.org
(716) 852-8314 ext. 1

Jennifer Frey, Office Volunteer
clerical@trinitybuffalo.org

Rich Mpezos, Facility Manager
rmpezos@trinitybuffalo.org

Willow D'Agostino, Caretaker
Jay Mpezos, Caretaker

VESTRY

Erickson Contreras, Senior Warden
JoAnne Sundell, Junior Warden
Bing Sherrill, Treasurer
Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk
Clint Brown
Emily Carlin
Sue Doherty
Connie Ervin
Jane Kearns
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

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Voice of Trinity (Facebook): Julie Keller-Rizzo
Cyber Sacristan: Meg Knowles
Greeters: Christian Eshelman, Bruce Nisbet
Readers: Davis Bradley, Tom Owen, Jeffrey Tooke
Announcements: Missy Stolfi
Prayers: Missy Stolfi
Communion Ministers: Clint Brown, Linda Wagner, Jeffrey Tooke
Guest musician: Matt Harris, saxophone
Counters: Jess Poleon, Emily Carlin
Coffee Hour: Phoebe 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 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](#).