

A Service of Holy Communion October 15, 2023 Year A, Proper 23 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: "Morning Glory" by Matt Lincoln 2023

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

"Cornet Voluntary" by John Travers

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.

This centering prayer is by Chaim Stern and may be found in Mishkan T'filah, published by the American Conference of Rabbis in 2007. Ring out the Lord's glo-ry, praise God with your mu-sic, wor-ship the Lord bless God's name.__

FIRST READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

or these reasons, my sisters and brothers—you whom I so love and long for, you who are my joy and my crown—continue, my dear ones, to stand firm in Christ Jesus.

I implore Euodia and Syntyche to come to an agreement with each other in Christ. And I ask you, Syzygus, to be a true comrade and help these coworkers. These two women struggled at my side in defending the Good News, along with Clement and the others who worked with me. Their names are written in the Book of Life.

Rejoice in the Savior always! I say it again: Rejoice! Let everyone see your forbearing spirit. Our Savior is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, my sisters and brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, decent, admirable, virtuous, or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

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

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.

"Day by day"

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.

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.

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.

Mary Oliver (1935-2019) wrote verse that focused on the *quiet of occurrences* of nature. In addition to such major awards as the Pulitzer and National Book Award, Oliver has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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.

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happened better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.

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

ECHO (Sing through 2 times.)

"DAY BY DAY"

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.

GOSPEL READING

hen Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like this: there was a ruler who prepared a feast for the wedding of the family's heir; but when the ruler sent out workers to summon the invited guests, they wouldn't come. The ruler sent other workers, telling them to say to the guests, 'I have prepared this feast for you. My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding.' But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to her business, and the rest seized the workers, attacked them brutally and killed them. The ruler was furious and dispatched troops who destroyed those murderers and burned their town.

"Then the ruler said to the workers, 'The wedding feast is ready, but the guests I invited don't deserve the honor. Go out to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find.' The workers went out into the streets and collected everyone they met, good and bad alike, until the hall was filled with guests.

"The ruler, however, came in to see the company at table, and noticed one guest who was not dressed for a wedding. 'My friend,' said the ruler, 'why are you here without a wedding garment?' But the guest was silent. Then the ruler said to the attendants, 'Bind this guest hand and foot, and throw the individual out into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

"Many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Есно see above "DAY BY DAY"

"DON'T HESITATE" BY MARY OLIVER

MIDDLE READING

MATTHEW 22:1-14

Sermon

It is a pleasure to have the Rev. William Roberts worshiping among us at Trinity from time to time, and a special pleasure for us when he preaches. William is a retired priest living in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Although his ministry has mostly been in Canada, he graduated from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We affirm our faith in one God.

Source of all life, greater than all names and forms, source of our being, closer than any. Upon this one God we depend for all we are and for all that ever will be.

And we affirm our faith in Christ.

Who has shown us the way to true life. By breaking the chain of human bondage, through his self-giving life and death and by his rising again, he has given us hope for a new humanity, hope for the healing of earth's life.

And we affirm our faith in the living Spirit of God.

Through whom we awaken to God's purpose for the world, and share in the freedom, joy, and peace of the children of God. For by God's Spirit divine love has flooded our lives, shaping us into a community of forgiven and freely accepted brothers and sisters set apart for God's service. Risen with Christ we share in his work for God's world of everlasting life, justice, and peace. 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.

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.**

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 Church of South India. 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.

These prayers are an effort to pray with one voice even though we have a diversity of needs and hopes. Add your requests by scaning the QR code We remember those for whom our prayers have been asked.

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.

Musical response, twice through:

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

"Sing a New Church" Dolores Dufner and Jeffery Honoré

Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity, Gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity.

Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid, varied, ways, Sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.

Radiant risen from the water, robed in holiness and light, Male and female in God's image, male and female, god's delight.

Trust the goodness of creation, trust the Spirit strong within. Dare to dream the vision promised, sprung from seed of what has been.

Bring the hopes of every nation, bring the art of every race. Weave a song of peace and justice, let it sound through time and space.

Draw together at one table all the human family. Shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free.

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

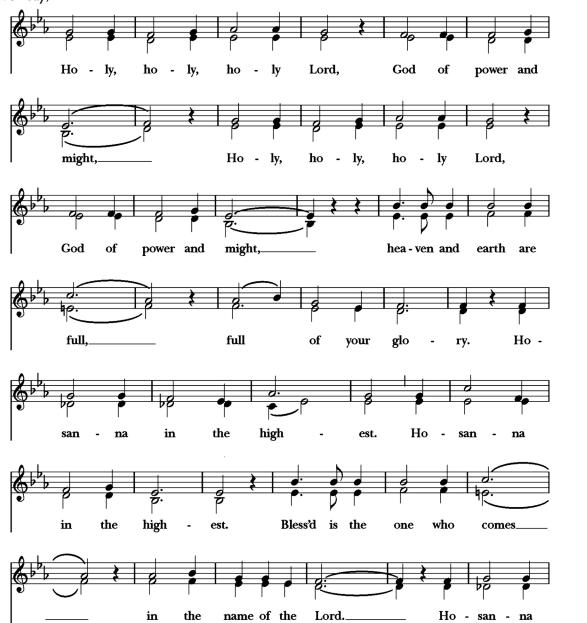
Lift up your hearts.

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,



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:

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?

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.

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: 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.** This blessing was offered by the Rev. Brian Baker at Burning Man 2015.

Continued on next page

HYMN

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

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Words: Att. John Fawcett (1739/40-1817) Music: Sicilian Mariners, Sicilian melody; first published The European Magazine and London Review, 1792, alt.

DISMISSAL

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

Our spiritual

Go in peace, following the way of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"BLUE RONDO À LA TURK" BY DAVE BRUBECK

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. On Wednesdays starting **October 18**, we will 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.

Your Thoughts Needed Again! Followup Survey

On September 17, Trinity folks met in the Marfield Room to talk about the situation that we find ourselves in as a congregation and possible visions for what the future might look like. A major part of what guided that work was your feedback from this summer's Priorities survey. You can watch the video of that presentation! At the end of that meeting, we were all asked to reflect on where we heard God in these ideas, what parts brought us alive, and how we each would personally like to act on it. With the benefit of some time to think about these things more deeply, we once again ask you to share your thoughts with us and to commit yourself to the work we have to do. Please go here to share your opinions, your questions, but most importantly your gifts and talents in service of the work ahead.

Slow Down Yoga

Yoga is returning to Trinity! **Tuesdays @noon** we will 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 will move 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. For more information go to https://www.groundedinbirdsong.org/yoga or email Heather at https://www.groundedinbirdsong.org/

Worship Volunteer Open house

Stay after worship **TODAY**, for a brief open house to discover the variety of ways to get involved in worship on Sunday mornings. Helpers of all ages are encouraged to attend. No signup necessary.

Trinity Halloween Party - Friday, October 27

It's time to dust off your costumes and mark your calendars for "Trinitreat" on **Friday, October 27**, a night of fun and games for folks of all ages. Contact Tim Lane <u>t.w.lane@outlook.com</u> or Kayla Kisenwether <u>kkisenwether@gmail.com</u> if interested in helping make this event a spooktacular success.

Barbecue Chicken Dinner on November 5!

Order early, order often. Trinity will be selling Weidner's chicken for takeout on **Sunday, November 5**, from right 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. Order deadline is **Sunday, Oct 29**. Proceeds to support Trinity!

Volunteers Needed

If you can help out on **Nov 5** by working at the chicken barbecue takeout or baking desserts for that same event, please email Teresa Maciocha at <u>tmaciocha@aol.com</u>. If you work the takeout, your shift would be from 11am to 1pm. If you bake a dessert, it can be delivered to church that morning. Of course, you are welcome to do both. Thanks very much.

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: <u>emily.g.carlin@gmail.com</u>

QR for presentation







Tell Selection - Station
22267 (269.25)
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HELMAD TABLE
367515273-52
2.1426-2326-2
THE SECOND STREET



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YouTube: Trinity Church Buffalo

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Sarah Caputi, *Caretaker* Denise Lanzilotta, *Caretaker* Jay Mpelezos, *Caretaker*

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

Guest Preacher: Readers: Announcements: Counter:

The Rev. William Roberts Sally Cook, Patti Nisbet, John Fantini Tim Lane Jeffrey Tooke

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 <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u> 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
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Email your request for a link to the Zoom worship services here.