

A Service of Holy Communion August 10, 2025 Year C, Proper 14

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 not on site, your presence online is felt and valued by the whole congregation. 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!"

In the courtyard, we are not able to light candles as we do indoors. Instead, we have a spiritual practice of using prayer stones during the service. You can do this either in person or at home online. Pick up a prayer stone as you come into the courtyard, and feel free to rub your prayers into the stone during the first part of the service. At the time of the community prayers, you will be invited to bring your stone and all your prayers to the altar.

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.

During the summer when worship is outdoors in the courtyard, there are many ways for children to keep quietly occupied. While monitoring their safety, feel free to let your children explore and enjoy being outdoors, and do not worry about their activity being disrespectful or disruptive. Children, with all their sounds and movements, are a welcome part of the gathering for worship.

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

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray responsively.

We struggle, we grow weary, we grow tired.

We are exhausted, we are distressed, we despair.

We give up, we fall down, we let go.

We cry, we are empty, we grow calm.

We are ready. We wait quietly.

A small shy truth arrives. Arrives from without and within.

Arrives and is born. Simple, steady, clear.

Like a mirror, like a bell, like a flame. Like rain in summer.

A precious truth arrives and is born within us. Within our emptiness.

We accept it, we observe it, we absorb it.

We surrender to our bare truth.

We are nourished, we are changed.

We are blessed. We rise up.

For this we give thanks.

Amen.

This prayer is adapted from a poem by Michael Leunig.

Cover image: First image from the James Webb Space Telescope HYMN

"GOD OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH"

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Moses, Miriam's Guide; God of David and the prophets, God in Jesus glorified: From the dust you raise a people, breathe in breath of life, of soul; Through the years the people praise you till your praises make them whole! In spirit or in body, the congregation stands to sing hymns.

God who dances in creation, spinning stars above our heads; God whose face is scribed in music, by whose hand the earth is fed: From the ground you raise the mountains, raise our spirits, lift our eyes; Through the years your people praise you till your praises flood the skies!

Words by James Gertmenian, 1986. Sung to the Tune "Nettleton"

The Bible readings

are taken from The

First Egalitarian Translation *by*

Inclusive Bible: The

Priests for Equality.

God who loves the poor in spirit, God who comforts those who mourn; Balm for wounds, the friend of sinners, takes the side of earth's forlorn: From the depths you raise your people, give them courage for the day; Through the years the people praise you till your praises light their way!

In our lives from birth to dying, depth of sorrow, height of joy; Praising God in every season, every key our hearts employ. Praise is healing, praise, the glory, praise the final mystery: Through the years let people praise you till your praises set them free!

FIRST READING GENESIS 15:1-6

fter these events, the word of God came to Abram in a vision:

"Fear not, Abram!
I am your shield;

I will make your reward very great."

Abram said, "But my Sovereign, my God! What good are these blessings to me, so long as Sarai and I will die in disgrace? My only heir is a foreigner who lives in my household, Eliezer of Damascus. Since you have given me no offspring," Abram continued, "an attendant in my house will be my heir."

Then the word of God came to Abram and said, "This person will not be your heir. Your heir will be of your own flesh and blood."

Then God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can! As many as that, you will have for descendants." Abram believed God, and God accounted it to Abram as righteousness.

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.

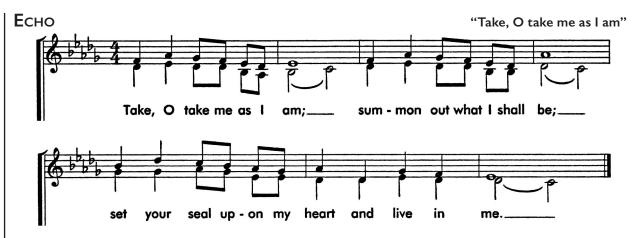
Words and Music
- ©1995 Iona
Community / WGRG
(North America)
Contributors: Iona
Community

Hsu Yun (1839 - 1959)was a renowned Chinese Chan Buddhist master and one of the most influential Buddhist teachers of the 19th and 20th centuries. "Dharma" refers not only to the sayings of the Buddha, but also to the later traditions of interpretation to help explain and to expand upon the Buddha's teachings. For others still, they see the Dharma as referring to the "truth" or the ultimate reality of "the way that things really are.

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.

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.



MIDDLE READING

"SEARCHING FOR THE DHARMA" BY HSU YUN

You've traveled up ten thousand steps in search of the Dharma.

So many long days in the archives, copying, copying.

The gravity of the Tang and the profundity of the Sung make heavy baggage.

Here! I've picked you a bunch of wildflowers.

Their meaning is the same

but they're much easier to carry.

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

Thanks be to God.

Есно

see above

"Take, O take me as I am"

GOSPEL READING LUKE 12:32-40

esus said, "Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Abba to give you the kingdom. Sell what you own and give the money to poorer people. Make purses for yourselves that don't wear out—treasures that won't fail you in heaven that thieves can't steal and moths can't destroy. For wherever your treasure is, that's where your heart will be.

"Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps lit. Be like the household staff awaiting the owner's return from a wedding, so that when the owner arrives and knocks, you'll open the door without delay. It will go well with those staff members whom the owner finds wide awake upon returning. I tell you the absolute truth, the owner will put on an apron, seat them at table and proceed to wait on them. Should the owner happen to come at midnight, or before sunrise, and find them prepared, it will go well with them. Understand this: no homeowner who knew when a thief was coming would have let the thief break in! So be on guard—the Promised One will come when least expected."

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

Thanks be to God.

Есно

"Take, O take me as I am"

see previous page

THE SERMON

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Affirmation of Faith
I believe in one God
who creates, loves, cares and corrects all people,
who acts in history,
and who promises never to leave us alone.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth who is Lord, Christ and Redeemer, who wants not to be idealized, but to be followed.

I believe that we live in the presence of the Holy Spirit without whom we are nothing; filled with the Holy Spirit we are able to become creative, free and full of life.

I believe in the church of God in Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in the understanding of our faith through worship, fellowship and acts of liberation.

I believe that God has called us to a partnership for the continuance of his mission in this time and place, and that, though we live in the midst of confusion, turmoil, exploitation, oppression and in the grip of the forces of death, we are called to be instruments of peace and justice.

I believe that God brings about changes in people, in nature and in the whole cosmos, that God makes the whole creation a new heaven and a new earth of justice, peace, harmony and life in all its fullness. 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:

Aurelio Valente - terminal stomach cancer Lenore Pawlowski- recovering from surgery Laurel Mark- right sided pain while waiting for hip surgery

Ron Luczak - recovering from a serious car accident

M.D - in need of a kidney

Jeff Watson and family - battling multiple myeloma

Debra Davis and family - diagnosed with terminal cancer

Teddy Altreuter- recovering from stroke Edward Rautenstrauch- recovering from open heart surgery.

Chris Pidgeon (Nisbet) - in ICU

Lee and Lynette Nisbet - continuing serious

health challenge

Perry - recovering from stroke

Jack Barrett and family - battling cancer
Kathy Chase - recovering from a car accident
Linda Harris - battling stage 4 lung cancer

Maryanne Nowacki - battling multiple

myeloma

Alphonso and Marcia O'Neil-White

Betsy Curtis

For those who have died and all who mourn:

Tasha Ervin-Garner, Teddy Altreuter

In spirit or in body, please stand.

This affirmation comes from the Church of South India. 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 scaning the *QR* code.



These prayers for the church and for the world come to us from the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations.

When we are outdoors, we use a prayer practice that has been much loved by the Trinity community over the years. As these prayers are offered aloud, finish rubbing your prayers into your stone, and then, during the musical response, bring your stone to leave it on the altar as a way of embodying your offering of prayer.

God of mercy and justice, we lift before you the millions in our nation who face empty cupboards and unanswered cries for help. As food banks grow overwhelmed and safety nets unravel, we remember that your Son taught us that when we feed the hungry, we serve Christ himself. Strengthen the volunteers, the caregivers, and community leaders who labor to meet their rising need and stir our hearts to generosity, courage, and advocacy. All this we ask for the sake of your holy name. **Amen.**

God of strangers and outcasts, we lift before you all immigrants and asylum seekers who face injustice at the borders of this nation. We grieve the expansion of detention centers and policies that deepen fear and suffering. Your son, Jesus Christ, once fled violence and persecution. Empower all who work to defend the dignity and safety of immigrants and refugees, in the United States and throughout the world. Make us faithful doers of your justice and mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your son our savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Liberating God, you brought your people out of bondage in Egypt and delivered them into freedom. We pray for all who are exploited through forced labor. We are clothed in garments woven in pain; we hold devices made by hands in chains; and we eat from fields harvested by the abused. Lift the veil from our eyes, so that we may see clearly our participation in systems of oppression. Strengthen us by your Spirit to be agents of justice and bearers of hope, working for a world where dignity is restored and exploitation is no more. We ask this in the name of Christ, our liberator and our example. **Amen.**

Creator God, our only king, you have called your church to be the body of Christ in the world, not a servant of power, but a witness to truth. The scourge of Christian nationalism confuses loyalty to nation with loyalty to Christ. Guard our hearts from idolatry, and remind us that our freedom is found not in earthly dominion, but in the self-giving love of Jesus, crucified and risen. Help us engage in the public square with compassion and courage, practicing the call to speak truth and conquer injustice, yet remember to never compromise our witness to the one in whom all authority rests. We ask this through your Son, our true Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Now is the time to bring your prayer stone to the altar.

THE PEACE

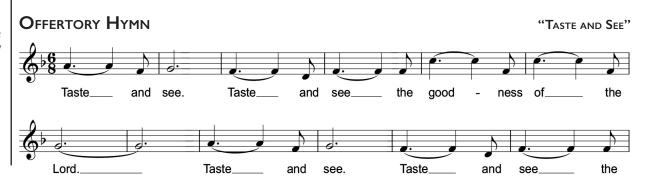
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

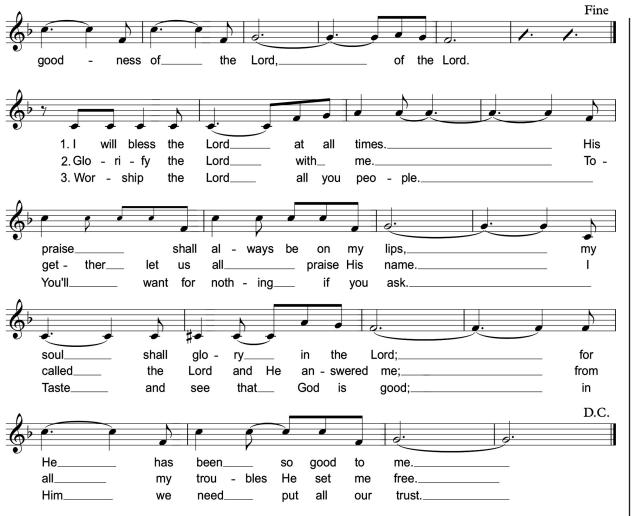
And also with you.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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





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 vour 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 from the Maori people of New Zealand.

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 Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to heaven

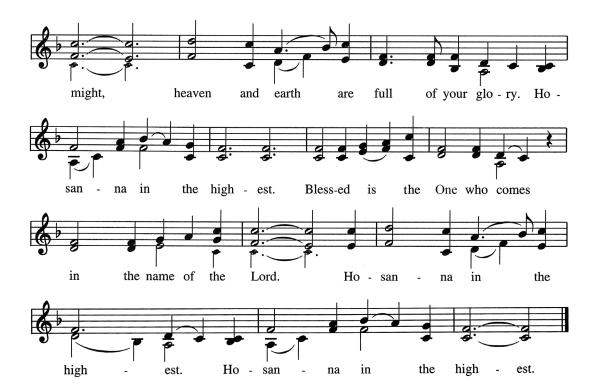
where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right to give thanks and praise to you, Holy God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You brought the world into being and declared it good; you made humankind in your image, and entrusted to us the stewardship of all creation. Therefore with the faithful who rest in Christ, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:





This Sanctus is based on the early American folk hymn, "Land of Rest."

Despite our failings you showed us mercy. Through Torah and the voices of the prophets and poets, you called us to faithfulness and justice. You insisted that we remember the poor and marginalized, the orphan and the stranger. With infinite generosity you forgave us as we followed self-centered goals and ignored your invitation to love more broadly. Never abandoning us to the consequences of selfishness, you came among us and showed us the path of life.

Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your presence; love and fidelity the embrace of your grace.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and the discarded, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He pronounced the blessedness of peacemakers, all those who are willing to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness. Jesus yearned to draw all of the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. We returned violence for his friendship, crucifixion for his self-offering. Yet even this you turned to blessing, and transformed his unjust death into the means of salvation.

Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your presence; love and fidelity the embrace of your grace.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat. This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. Send your Spirit upon us also, and grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Gracious God, 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,

Broken apart, this bread draws us together.

for ever and ever. Amen.

Poured out like wine, Christ's blood makes our hearts beat as one.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion, regardless of religious background or affiliation. 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 of you in person in the courtyard, form a large circle around the cross 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 F. Amiel (1821-1881).

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 to love others as God has loved us. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A Service of Prayerful Witness: Save Our Rural Economy: A Journey of Empathy

Join Trinity Buffalo in welcoming the Rev. Richard Witt and Rural & Migrant Ministry as they complete their Caravan across New York State in support of immigrants and their important positive impact on New York's economy and its agricultural communities. A service of prayerful witness will be hosted in Trinity's chapel on **Saturday, August 9** @4:30pm. For more information about the Caravan's journey across New York State, visit https://ruralmigrantministry.org/save-new-yorks-rural-economy-a-journey-of-empathy-caravan/ or use this QR code.

Second annual basket raffle will be here before you know it. Please save the date, **Saturday, October 18** @2 pm; mark your calendars and start gathering your friends and family for an exciting afternoon and a chance to win many wonderful prizes.

We are asking each family to make at least one basket or gift card/certificate and a bottle of alcohol/ wine for our additional raffle. We also plan to have a large ticket item raffle and a lottery ticket raffle. Please contact Jess Poleon, jesspoleon@gmail.com if you are interested in assisting with the event or have local businesses to solicit for donations. We are hoping that we have even more people this year than we did at last year's raffle.

Krista Seddon Trinity Jazz Concert Blue Note Series Fall 2025

September 26 "Blues in the Night"

October 24 "Kind of Blue"

November 21 "Mood Indigo"

Performances start @7:00. Tickets are \$30, available at Trinitybuffalo.org or use the QR code.

Volunteers needed for reception and ticket table. Email Tim at <u>t.w.lane@outlook.com</u> or use the volunteer QR code to signup. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket plus one for a friend.

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.

Parking at Trinity's Franklin Street Lot

Trinity has a parking lot behind the church off Franklin Street. Parking is available for no fee during each of the weekly services (Sundays I0am-Ipm and 6-9pm, Wednesdays II:30am-I:30pm, and Thursdays 6-9pm) You can use the lot any other time you are in the neighborhood so that Trinity gets the parking fee! Use your smartphone to pay. You may wish to download the Premium Parking app ahead of time to make it easier to park and go.

Altar Prep Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with maintaining and preparing the altar for communion. Duties include any combination of the following: preparing communion elements, washing dishes from communion, laundering altar linens, coordinating altar decorating for special services. Contact Tim Lane tw.lane@outlook.com for more details.

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, smerrit 172@gmail.com PURCHASE TICKETS



HELPER SIGNUP









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(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. I

Jennifer Frey, Office Volunteer clerical@trinitybuffalo.org

Rich Mpelezos, Facility Manager rmpelezos@trinitybuffalo.org

Willow D'Agostino, Caretaker Jay Mpelezos, Caretaker

VESTRY

Erickson Contreras, Senior Warden IoAnne Sundell, Junior Warden

Bing Sherrill, Treasurer

Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk

Clint Brown **Emily Carlin** Sue Doherty Connie Ervin Jane Kearns less Poleon Missy Stolfi Cindy Stroud

CHOIR MEMBERS

The choir will resume in September. John Clayton, Section Leader

Sue Doherty Christina Kinney

Tim Lane, Section Leader "Gretchen" Elaine 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 Sacristans: Meg Knowles

Greeters: Tom Owens, Susan Doherty

Readers: Susan Doherty, Connie Ervin Jeffrey Tooke

Marie Keane Prayers: Announcements: Susan Doherty Ministers of Communion: Missy Stolfi, Ed Fries

Guest musicians: Lisa Hasselback piano; Ken Kuriscak, saxophone

Counter: Susan Doherty Coffee Hour: Susan Doherty

Thursday @7pm

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.

In the summer, held on 1st and 3rd Sundays. Meets August 17.

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

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.