

A Service of Holy Communion July 9, 2023 Year A, Proper 9

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: Blooming wisteria vines, Kawachi Fuji Gardens in Kitakyushu, Japan

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

# 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!"

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.

Children, with all their sounds and movements, are a welcome part of the gathering for worship. During the summer when worship is outdoors in the courtyard, there are many ways for children to keep quietly occupied, so the nursery is not open at this time. 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.

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.

This church is a field where mustard seeds are planted.

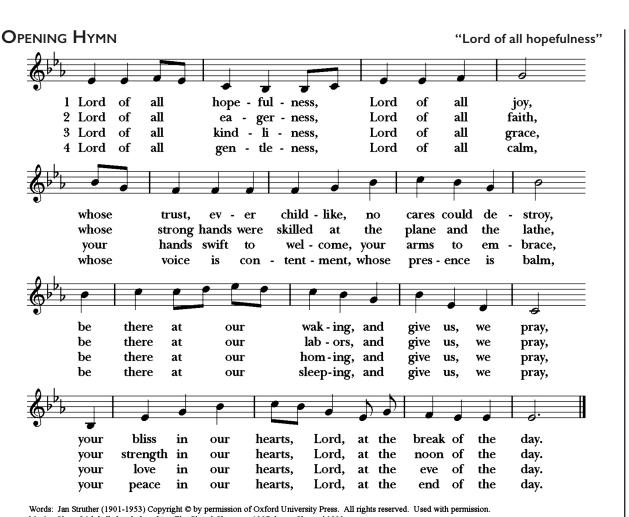
Oh, God, let our small faith grow.

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.



Music: Slane, Irish ballad melody; adapt. The Church Hymnary, 1927; harm. Hymnal 1982

FIRST READING

he voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,

bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle

or a young stag.

Look, there he stands

behind our wall.

gazing in at the windows,

looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,

and come away;

for now the winter is past,

the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;

the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove

is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,

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

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.

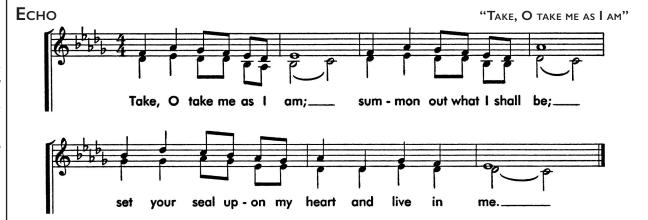
The Bible readings are taken from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality.

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

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

Thanks be to God.



Contributors: Iona Community Text and Tune: ©1995, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## MIDDLE READING

"Now Voyager" by May Sarton

Now voyager, lay here your dazzled head. Come back to earth from air, be nourished, Not with that light on light, but with this bread.

Here close to earth be cherished, mortal heart, Hold your way deep as roots push rocks apart To bring the spurt of green up from the dark.

Where music thundered let the mind be still, Where the will triumphed let there be no will, What light revealed, now let the dark fulfill.

Here close to earth the deeper pulse is stirred, Here where no wings rush and no sudden bird, But only heart-beat upon beat is heard.

Here let the fiery burden be all spilled, The passionate voice at last be calmed and stilled And the long yearning of the blood fulfilled.

Now voyager, come home, come home to rest, Here on the long-lost country of earth's breast Lay down the fiery vision, and be blest, be blest.

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

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.

May Sarton (1912-1995) was born in Belgium and raised in Massachusetts. PoetryFoundation. org says, "at first overlooked by literary critics, in the later part of her career reviewers and feminist academics began to discover Sarton's work, lauding her as an important contemporary American author."

see previous page

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

esus said, "What comparison can I make with this generation? They are like children shouting to others as they sit in the marketplace, 'We piped you a tune, but you wouldn't dance. We sang you a dirge, but you wouldn't mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed.' The Chosen One comes, eating and drinking, and they say, 'This one is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' Wisdom will be vindicated by her own actions."

Then Jesus prayed, "Abba God, Creator of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever, you have revealed to the youngest children. Yes, Abba, everything is as you want it to be."

lesus continued, "Everything has been handed over to me by Abba God. No one knows the Only Begotten except Abba God, and no one knows Abba God except the Only Begotten and those to whom the Only Begotten wants to give that revelation. Come to me, all you who labor and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Here you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

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

SERMON THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

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.

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.

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.

#### 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



#### COMMUNITY PRAYER

Now that we are outdoors, we can use a prayer practice that has been much loved by the Trinity community over the years. As these prayers are offered aloud, feel free to bring your prayer stone to the altar and leave it there as an act of intercession.

The Lord be with you.

#### And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

As we begin our prayers, we remember those for whom our prayers have been asked, particularly:

David Rich - guidance for the doctors to help with pain management

Jennifer Frey - successful management of glaucoma

| Jack & Cody Pelc - fighting to get strong enough to go home from NICU

Teresa Maciocha's niece, Paige - undergoing chemo for a rare kidney disease

lane Haenle - in rehab

Betsy and Peter Curtis

Trey Bankhead

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

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

When we need to combine our strengths, show us that we are one in you.

When we feel torn apart and alienated from each other, **again: show us that we are one in you.** 

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 all in positions of governmental authority around the world, that they may lead with wisdom, humility, in the service of the whole human family.

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 human community, for oneness transcending difference and hostility, for peace and justice. We pray for all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world where the dignity and freedom of all are protected.

We pray for all who study the natural world and seek to preserve our resources and environment. We pray for the wisdom to see that preserving our way of life will require change and adaptation.

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. Amen.

The priest concludes the prayers, saying:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by the one through whom all things were made, your Son 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!

#### **A**NNOUNCEMENTS



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:



#### SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

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

The Lord be with you.

## And also with you.

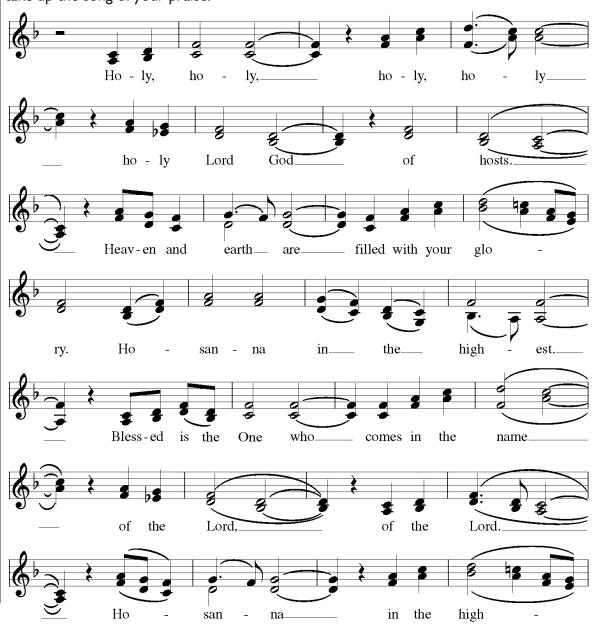
Lift up your hearts.

#### We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

## It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings you never cease to call us to fullness of life. You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world; he fed us and feasted with us, he healed us and suffered for us; his dying and rising have set us free from the poverty of sin and the famine of death. Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the song of your praise:



In spirit or in body, please stand.

This Eucharistic Prayer is adapted from Steven Shakespeare's Prayers For An Inclusive Church.

This Sanctus is found in Lift Every Voice and Sing II, an African American hymnal.



We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that they may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me."

Therefore we proclaim him as creation's host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Author of blessings, for ever and 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, provide yourself with a morsel of bread and a sip of wine or any suitable substitutes you have. For those of you in person in the courtyard, form a line coming up to the cross to receive a piece of pita or gluten free cracker and if you wish, ask the minister of communion to dip it in the chalice so you can receive the wine as well.

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 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.

#### 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.

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

#### **B**LESSING

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.** 

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

"GO FORTH FOR GOD"

Go forth for God; go to the world in love; Strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;

Help the afflicted; richly from above God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.

Go forth for God; go to the world in strength;

Hold fast the good, be urgent for the right; Render to no one evil; Christ at length shall overcome all darkness with his light.

Go forth for God; go to the world in joy; To serve God's people every day and hour, And serving Christ, our every gift employ, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.

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 you. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

# **A**NNOUNCEMENTS

#### Wardens' Word Update

You heard us! At least several of you did, and we urge more of you to join in. There has been a very encouraging response to the matching donation challenge we gave you last week. And along with donations to meet the challenge, there have also been many thoughtful and illuminating responses to the survey that was put before you in the eNews last week and during church on Sunday.

If you have not yet made an extra donation to the matching funds challenge we described in this space last week, please take this opportunity to do so. Your gift, no matter how large or small, will show your understanding of the urgency of Trinity's need and your commitment to sharing Trinity Church with the Buffalo community for years to come.

Trinity has three daunting tasks before it that have to be handled at the same time over the next few years. First is the financial crisis we are experiencing right now. Second, you and everyone in the Trinity community are being called into a time of discernment through prayer, study, and conversation to create a plan for partnerships with other organizations that will keep Trinity sustainable for years to come. Third, Trinity will need enough financial resources to give the new plan time to take effect.

A larger campaign is being organized for later this year for that third task. For now, your gift to the matching funds challenge will address the near term financial needs, and your participation in the survey will enable you to contribute to the discernment process.

To make a donation, please make a check payable to Trinity with "Challenge" in the memo line, or use the Special Gift category in the <u>online donation portal</u>, and include "Challenge" in the memo line there. Remember, this will be reported on your statement as an extra gift, and will not be counted toward your regular giving.

Faithfully yours,

John Gillespie, Senior Warden and John Alduino, Junior Warden

#### Parking at Trinity's Franklin Street Lot

When you come to a church service or other Trinity event, you can park in Trinity's Franklin Street lot for free. The parking fees will not be enforced during Trinity events. But you can park in the lot any other time you are in the neighborhood, and Trinity gets the parking fee! Use your smartphone to pay.

#### **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. You can help the wider community appreciate the resources Trinity has to share. Post this link on your social media or email it to friends. Better yet, invite someone to come on the tour with you. <a href="https://explorebuffalo.org/sacred-spaces/trinity-episcopal-church/">https://explorebuffalo.org/sacred-spaces/trinity-episcopal-church/</a>

#### **Comfort and Care Team**

Please let the Comfort and Care Team members (listed below) know how we can be of help and support to you or someone you know who may be experiencing health or other life challenges. You may email anyone of us as we share with each other the information concerning the needs of those that reach out. Support may be offered in many ways such as a caring phone call, notes, information on resources, and a friendly visit. We can also assist with arranging needed meals. Our prayers are always offered. Sincerely, the Comfort and Care Team.

Phoebe McKay, phoebemckay@gmail.com; Judy Atkinson-Miller, jatk1812@gmail.com;

Susie Green, <a href="mailto:susie432@gmail.com">susie432@gmail.com</a>; Patti Nisbet, <a href="mailto:tudorspace@aol.com">tudorspace@aol.com</a>; Victoria Kearns, <a href="mailto:kearns.vr@gmail.com">kearns.vr@gmail.com</a>; Sara Merritt, <a href="mailto:smerritt172@gmail.com">smerritt172@gmail.com</a>; and Marie Keane, <a href="mailto:mNMKeane@msn.com">MNMKeane@msn.com</a>

#### Interfaith Garden Walk Tour

Trinity is one of the participating congregations for a free interfaith bus tour of East Side Garden Walk gardens on Sunday, July 23, from 12:00-4:00pm. Tour begins at Manna, 683 Northland Avenue. Only 11 seats are available for Trinityites, so reserve your spot now by visiting: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/GARDENWALK23">bit.ly/GARDENWALK23</a> or scanning the QR code.

#### **Worship Helpers Needed**

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

#### **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. For more information, please speak to Emily Carlin or email: <a href="mailto:emily.g.carlin@gmail.com">emily.g.carlin@gmail.com</a>

#### Sign up <a href="here">here</a> to get Trinity's eNews to stay in touch!



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.













www.trinitybuffalo.org(716) 852-8314371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

**S**TAFF

The Reverend 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. William Roberts, Assisting Priest

Jeffrey Tooke, Cyber Sacristan

Julie Keller-Rizzo, "Voice of Trinity" on

Facebook

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

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

Sarah Caputi, Caretaker Denise Lanzilotta, Caretaker Jay Mpelezos, Caretaker Janene Gall, Facility Cleaner 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 Timothy Lane Megan McElfresh

Megan McElfres 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

Dan Galley Steve Shanley

Brandon Mecklenburg, Section Leader

Timothy Lane Tom Owen Ignacio Villa

The choir is on summer break.

#### TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Thursday @7pm

Readers: Missy Stolfi
Altar Server: Jeffrey Tooke

Guest musician: George Caldwell, piano

Counters: Erickson Contreras, 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 Facebook and

YouTube pages after the service is over.

**Sunday @7:00pm** Featuring poetry and jazz, in person in the Chapel and on Zoom

on Ist and 3rd Sundays through Sept. Next meeting is July 16.

**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.