

A Service of Holy Communion April 28, 2024 Fifth 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.

> Cover image: Detail, Tiffany window, Trinity

PRELUDE

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

# 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!"

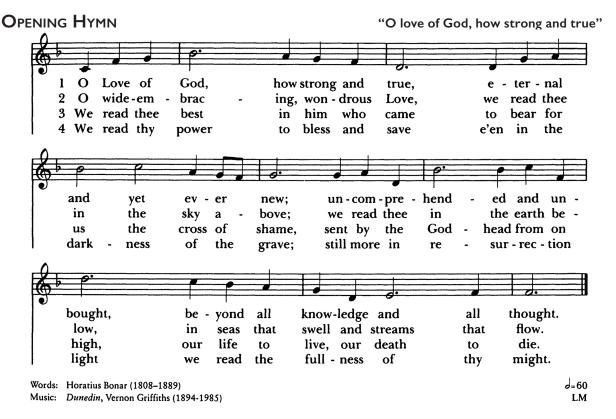
Trinity Church is a metropolitan house of prayer, a community of worship and spiritual inquiry, welcoming all people. Recognizing our common brokenness, yet rejoicing in the reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ, we nurture one another in our spiritual life together. This communal worship service 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 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. 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.

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.

"Solitude" by Duke Ellington

CENTERING PRAYER Let us pray. 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.



### FIRST READING

Астя 8:26-40

n angel of God spoke to Philip and said, "Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes to Gaza, the desert road." So Philip began his journey. It happened that an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, the ruler of Ethiopia, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was returning home. He was sitting in his carriage and reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and meet that carriage." When Philip ran up, he heard the eunuch reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"How can I," the eunuch replied, "unless someone explains it to me?"

With that, he invited Philip to get in the carriage with him. This was the passage of scripture being read:

"You are like a sheep being led to slaughter,

you are like a lamb that is mute in front of its shearers: like them, you never open your mouth.

You have been humiliated and have no one to defend you.

Who will ever talk about your descendants, since your life on earth has been cut short?"

The eunuch said to Philip, "Tell me, if you will, about whom the prophet is talking—himself or someone else?" So Philip proceeded to explain the Good News about Jesus to him. Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is some water right there. Is there anything to keep me from being baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop; then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch didn't see him anymore, and went on his way rejoicing. Philip found himself at Ashdod next, and he went about proclaiming the Good News in all the towns, until he came to Caesarea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**  *The Bible readings are taken from* The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by *Priests for Equality*.

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.

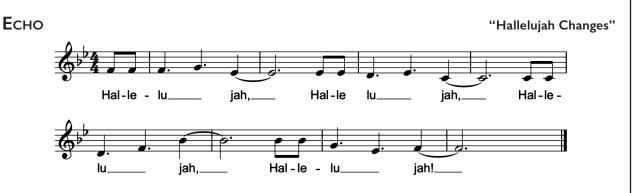
	Есно	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his Name.	
	Spread the good news o'er all the earth:	
	Jesus has died and has risen.	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his Name.	
The Middle Reading fills the role of a		
Bible reading, but	Middle Reading	"Messenger" by Mary Oliver
it doesn't come from the Bible. It is	My work is loving the world.	
our way of trying	Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—	
to listen for God's ongoing word as it	equal seekers of sweetness.	
is spoken outside the	Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.	
limits of the Bible.	Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.	
Most often, we turn to contemporary		
poets for this	Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?	
reading.	Am I no longer young, and still half-perfect? Let me	
Mary Oliver (1935-	keep my mind on what matters,	
2019) wrote verse that focused on the	which is my work,	
quiet occurrences		
of nature. In addition to such	which is mostly standing still and learning to be	
major awards	astonished.	
as the Pulitzer and National	The phoebe, the delphinium.	
Book Award,	The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.	
Oliver received fellowships from	Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,	
the Guggenheim Foundation and	which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart	
the National	and these body-clothes,	
Endowment for the Arts. Much of	a mouth with which to give shouts of joy	
Oliver's writing	to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,	
is based on her beloved Cape Cod	telling them all, over and over, how it is	
where she lived for	that we live forever.	
40 years with her		
life partner, the photographer Molly	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.	
Malone Cook.	Thanks be to God.	
	Есно	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his Name.	
	Come, let us praise the living God,	
	joyfully sing to our Savior.	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his Name.	

# Gospel Reading

Јони 15:1-8

am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You've been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine; neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Those who do not live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples."

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



**S**ERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

# 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.

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 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.

	Community Prayers				
	The Lord be with you. And also with you.				
	Let us pray for the Church and for the world.				
	We remember those for whom our prayers have been asked.				
4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	Dale Worwa Ed & Sherry Czechowski, recovering from a	Margaret (Peggy) Rizzo - suffers from Alzheimer's			
Add your requests by scaning the	bad MVA	Alberta Virginia Campbell			
QR code.	Ellen Nichter, fighting health issues	Alphonso & Marcia O'Neil-White - health			
	Abby Laettner	concerns			
	Adam Kreutinger	Harry Fackelman			
	Jessica De Oliveira E Silva (Quinn) - battling	Kathy Jerzewski - a return of lymphoma			
	stage 4 breast cancer Bruce Nisbet - battling cancer	Regina Glaser - in her battle with cancer Betsy and Peter Curtis			
	Celeste Richel				
	We also pray for the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church as they prepare to elect their				
	next presiding bishop, especially for the 5 bishops who have accepted nomination for that election,				
	including our bishop, Sean.				
These prayers are an effort to pray	Creating God, from the origin of our species, you fitted us with a grand vision for abundant life and				
with one voice even though we have a	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	/e bring before you today our desire for peace, our			
diversity of needs and hopes.		the dignity of every human being. And we affirm			
unu nopes.	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: <b>neither death, nor life, nor</b>				
	rulers, nor powers, nor anything else in all creation, will separate us from your love, O God.				
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	m 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!				

# OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" text by George Matheson, music by Robert Wetzler Tenor Soloist: John Clayton

O joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee,

I trace the rainbow through the rain,

And feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

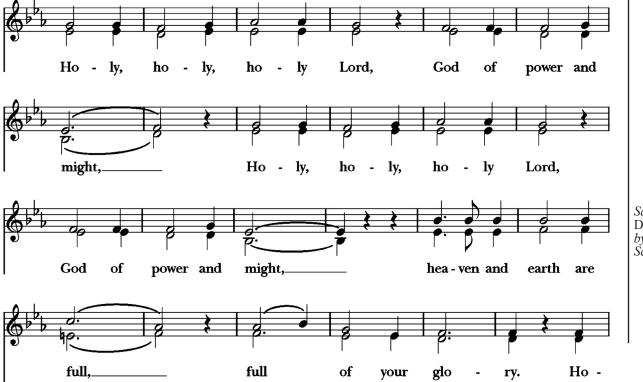
O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee, I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be. Amen

# 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:



#### 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

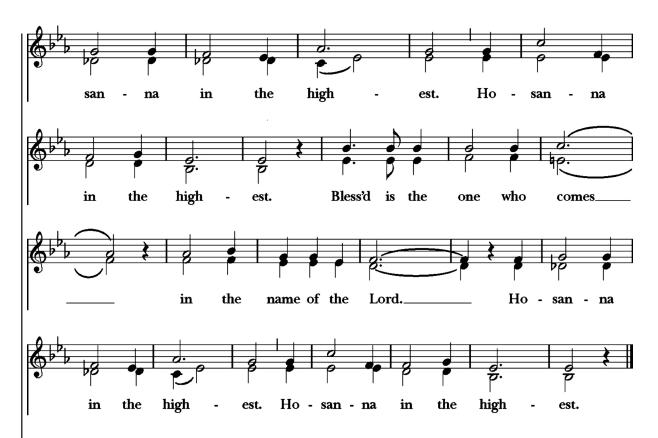
Your financial

when it is brought around during the offertory or <u>donate</u> <u>online here</u>, 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 Deutsche Messe by Franz Peter Schubert.



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?

# **R**ECEIVING COMMUNION

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

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

PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and remembering the body of Christ, which has been broken for the life of the world. Now give us grace to trust that we are a people, forgiven, healed, renewed. Give us the courage to proclaim your love to the world, and to continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

# 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 stav* 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.

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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, rejoicing in the power of the resurrection! Alleluia, alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!** 

Postlude

"PRELUDE & FUGUE IN D MINOR" BY J.S. BACH

# **A**NNOUNCEMENTS

#### 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>

#### Trinity Discussion Group: Israel and Gaza from Multiple Perspectives

The situation of Israel and Gaza is a very complicated issue that has been in the news over recent months. On Wednesdays **through May 8**, we explore the land of Palestine's historical, religious, and cultural connections from both a Muslim and Jewish perspective.

Join Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke on **Wednesdays @7pm** using the zoom link below: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONGINUUowZz09 Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk For more information, send an email to Jeffrey Tooke at jeffreytooke@outlook.com.

#### Hamlin Park School Fundraise- today is the last day

Hamlin Park School has reached out to Trinity for some help. They need gift baskets for their Saturday Academy on May 5. We hope to donate four or five baskets for a child or an adult. The baskets need not be elaborate and must be at Trinity by **April 28**. If you would like to help but are unable to make a basket, we would gladly take a cash donation and make a gift basket for you. There is a collection bin in the red carpet area. For more information, contact Sue Doherty: <u>susandoherty50@hotmail.com</u> or Catherine Lincoln: <u>ccarrlincoln@gmail.com</u>.

#### **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: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fafa629a3f58-trinity2</u>. 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 responding to comments during the service.

#### **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, <u>phoebemckay@gmail.com</u> Susie Green, <u>susie432@gmail.com</u> Patti Nisbet, <u>tudorspace@aol.com</u> Marie Keane, <u>MNMKeane@gmail.com</u> Sara Merritt, <u>smerrit172@gmail.com</u>

#### Slow Down Yoga

**Tuesdays @noon** we 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, this Hatha yoga-based practice moves 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. To sign up, click here or email Heather at <u>hhenryrawlins@gmail.com</u>

#### **Computer Volunteer Ministry Opportunity**

We are looking for a couple computer savvy volunteers who would be interested in volunteering as cyber sacristan to help with the livestream for the Sunday morning service and/or the Trinity @7 service. One only needs to be comfortable with using a computer and computer programs; the rest are easily learnable skills. If you'd like to know more or are interested in this volunteer ministry, please contact Jeffrey Tooke at jeffreytooke@outlook.com

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

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

#### **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. <u>https://explorebuffalo.org/sacred-spaces/trinity-episcopal-church/</u>

#### **Visiting Trinity**

The church is open by appointment for private prayer or meditation. Contact our parish administrator, Colleen O'Neill, at <u>coneill@trinitybuffalo.org</u> to schedule an appointment.

#### 👷 Sign up here to get Trinity's eNews to stay in touch!











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

#### **S**TAFF

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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

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

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

Janene Gall, Environmental Services

# **TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM**

Greeters:	Erickson Contreras, David Devereux
Cross Bearer:	Christina Kinney
Readers:	Missy Stolfi, Davis Bradley, Jane Kearns
Prayers:	Erickson Contreras
Announcements:	Missy Stolfi
Altar Servers:	Jeffrey Tooke, Missy Stolfi, Ed Fries
Guest musician:	Russ Carere, saxophone
Bakers:	Elaine Lodick, Kristine Caughell
Counters:	Missy Stolfi, John Alduino

# 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 Wednesday @Noon Thursday @7pm Featuring poetry and jazz, in person in the Chapel and on Zoom. 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.

Vestry

John Alduino, Senior Warden Erickson Contreras, Junior Warden Bing Sherrill, Treasurer Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk Clint Brown Emily Carlin Chris Cuccia Sue Doherty Connie Ervin Tim Lane Megan McElfresh Missy Stolfi Jeffrey Tooke CHOIR MEMBERS

Laura Munson, Section Leader Cheryl Fisher Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick Christina Kinney Laura Schleicher, Section Leader Sue Doherty John Clayton, Section Leader Steve Shanley Tim Lane, Section Leader Tom Owen Ignacio Villa

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YouTube: Trinity Church Buffalo

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