

A Service of Holy Communion

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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:
“Badlands Sunset”
by Matt Lincoln

This centering prayer is from Steven Shakespeare’s Prayers for an Inclusive Church.

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.

PRELUDE

“ROMANZA OP. 50” BY LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord Christ, you enter the desert to face the hardest truth;
we live in self-deception.

Lord have mercy.

You offer the bread that gives true life;
we consume what leaves us craving more.

Christ have mercy.

You refuse to worship empty power;
we let greed rule our world.

Lord have mercy.

OPENING HYMN

“When from bondage we are summoned”



When from bond-age we are sum-moned out of dark-ness
 When our God names us a peop-le, Jes - us leads us
 Through all stag - es of the jour - ney Christ is with us,
 We must not lose sight of Jes - us, who ac - cept - ed
 See the prize our God has prom-ised: end - less life with



in - to light, we must go in hope and pat-ience,
 by the hand through a lone - ly, bar - ren des - ert,
 night and day, with com - pas - sion for our weak-ness
 pain and loss, who, for joy of love un - meas-ured,
 Christ our Lord. Now we fix our eyes on Jes - us,



walk by faith and not by sight. *Let us throw off all that*
 to a great and glor - ious land.
 ev' - ry step a - long the way.
 dared em - brace the shame - ful cross.
 walk by faith in Jes - us' word.



hin - ders; let us run the race to win! Let us has - ten



to our home-land and, re - joic - ing, en - ter in.

Words: Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939)

Music: In Babilone, melody from Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradanseu, 1710; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

*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.*

FIRST READING

NUMBERS 21:4-9

The Israelites traveled from Mount Hor along the road to the Sea of Reeds in order to avoid Edom. But the people grew impatient along the way, and they addressed their concerns to God and Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? We have no bread! We have no water! And we are disgusted with this terrible food!”

Then God sent venomous snakes among the people. They fatally bit many of the people. So the people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against God and against you. Intercede for us, and ask that God remove the snakes from us.”

So Moses prayed for the people. And God said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it on the end of a pole. Anyone who is bitten and looks at it will live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Then whenever the people were bitten by a snake, they looked at the bronze snake and lived.

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.*

ECHO

“NADA TE TURBE”

Musical score for "NADA TE TURBE" in C major, 4/4 time, tempo 72. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system includes a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en. Those who seek God - shall Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te. Quien a Dios tie - ne". The second system includes a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us. na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta." Chord progressions are indicated above the treble staff: Am, Dm7, G, Em/C, F, Dm6, E, Am.

Contributors:
Jacques Berthier,
Taizé Community
Tune: © 1986, Les
Presses de Taizé,
GIA Publications,
Inc., agent
Text: St Teresa
of Avila

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.

No biographical
information could
be found for
Rob Suarez.

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.

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

MIDDLE READING

“BUT FOR SORROW” BY ROB SUAREZ

I might never have asked
what could be
but for sorrow.

I might never have opened
to the terrible
vulnerability of love
but for tears.

I might never have begun
this treacherous path to
God
but for emptiness.

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

ECHO

“NADA TE TURBE”

see above

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 3:14-21

Jesus said, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life.

Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life.

God sent the Only Begotten One into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved. Whoever believes in the Only Begotten avoids judgment, but whoever doesn't believe is judged already for not believing in the name of the

Only Begotten of God. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light came into the world, people showed they preferred darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. Indeed, people who do wrong hate the light and avoid it, for fear their actions will be exposed; but people who live by the truth come out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what they do is done in God.”

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

see *previous page*

“NADA TE TURBE”

SERMON

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.

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.

Mark Silvestri - missing with dementia. For his safe return

Barbara Deiotte, Jim Deiotte's sister - hospitalized in Indiana

Elizabeth Axford

Jessica De Oliveira E Silva (Quinn) - battling stage 4 breast cancer

Regina O'Connor

Peter Mark Kooshoian

Bruce Nisbet - battling cancer

Jeff Watson, John and Catherine’s son in law

Raymond Salamone - recovering from a work injury

Jack and Cody Pelc and their parents

Celeste Richel

Sarah

Margaret (Peggy) Rizzo - suffers from Alzheimer’s

Alistair - battling Lyme Disease

Rebecca - battling depression

George Lonie - health concerns

Ida Mascellino

Adam Kreutinger

Alphonso & Marcia O’Neil-White - embarking on a difficult medical journey

Harry Fackelman

Pauline Laettner - dog has cancer

Scott Howard - being treated for cancer, and his wife, Joanie Howard

Kathy Jerzewski - a return of lymphoma

Regina Glaser - in her battle with cancer

Betsy and Peter Curtis

The sermon invites your curiosity and thoughtfulness about the theme of worship, and is intended to evoke your thoughts rather than direct them. A recording of the sermon is posted to the parish website each week, usually by Tuesday.

In spirit or in body, please stand.

This affirmation, written by Matt Lincoln, is an adaptation of the Nicene Creed. Like the creed on which it is based, it is an expression of faith intended as a symbol of solidarity with other Christians throughout history but not as a pledge of allegiance required for membership.

Add your requests by scanning the QR code.



*These prayers are
an effort to pray
with one voice even
though we have a
diversity of needs
and hopes.*

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 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 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.

Musical Response

Congregation:

Aneini Aneini Aneini. Answer me.

Aneini Aneini Aneini. Answer me.

Aneini Aneini Aneini. Answer me.

Aneini Aneini Aneini. Answer me.

Cantor:

Minha meini — I called out to You from a narrow place.

Your answer came to me from a wide open space.

My heart cried out for You where-ever you are.

Your hand reached out to me

Minha meitzar.

Congregation:

Aneini Aneini Aneini Answer me.

Aneini Aneini Aneini Answer me.

Aneini Aneini Aneini. Answer me.

Aneini Aneini Aneini. Answer me.

*This musical
response is adapted
from a song
by Noah Aronson.*

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

*Light of the world, you loose the bonds of night.
Once we walked in darkness; now bursts forth your light.
Christ, in your glory come to light the way;
Teach us how to follow.*

*Light of our paths, you walk with us in strife.
Where conflict darkens, bring the light of life.
Christ, in your mercy come to show us love.
Teach us how to follow.*

“LIGHT OF THE WORLD” BY KAREN MARROLLI

*We must be your hands, lent to heal and bless.
We must be your light, rending wide the darkness.
Christ, in your image, we will greet the world;
This is how we follow.*

*Light of our days, we feel your dawning call;
Send us forth to serve and bring your light to all.
Christ, you have claimed us, you have made us one.
We will always follow.*

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

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

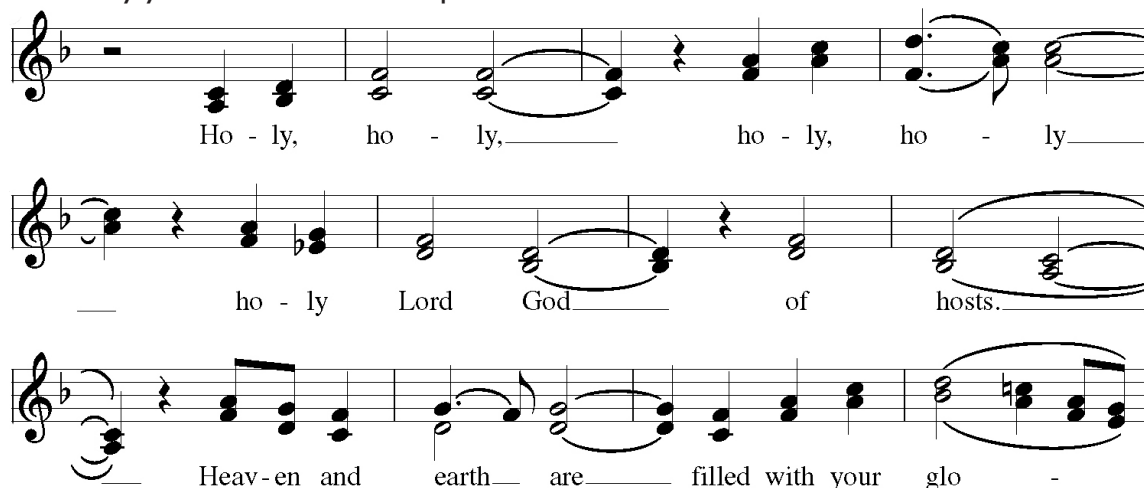
All things come of thee, O Lord;
and of thine own have we given thee.

The 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.

We thank you, desert Mother, for in the valley of dry bones you create hearts of flesh quickened by the Spirit's breath. We thank you, wise Sister, that you walk in cloud and fire with your lost and faithless people. We thank you, Son of Heaven, that you empty yourself of might and glory and set your face towards the fickle crowd, the cruel empire, the faithful despisers. We welcome you as God's own fool whose cross brings to nothing the violence of the world and reveals another wisdom outside the city walls. Therefore, with all who follow your way, with the traders and tax collectors, the soldiers and prostitutes, and all who caught a glimpse of glory in the humanity you shared, we worship God's own holiness revealed in sweat and tears:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -

Your financial support is not only a practical necessity. It can also be a very meaningful symbolic gesture, expressing your gratitude for the blessings in your life and your hope for health in the world. You can place cash or a check in the collection plate when it is brought around during the offertory or [donate online here](#), or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256. You can also get there by scanning this QR code:



This Eucharistic Prayer is from Steven Shakespeare's Prayers for an Inclusive Church.

Sanctus from Lift Every Voice and Sing

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name

of the Lord, of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high -

est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.**

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.

Now, as Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**Loving God, within and around us, we revere you.
We seek to live life as you would want us to do;
with love and respect for all people and all things in the universe.
May we find each day sufficient for our needs,
and find forgiveness when we do wrong,
just as we forgive those who do wrong to us.
In times of trouble, may we centre our lives in you.
For your being is love,
which comes with strength and with beauty,
throughout eternity. 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, you are welcome to participate in whatever way you feel comfortable.

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

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things, and the blessing of God, the Holy and undivided Trinity, be with you always. **Amen.**

This version of the Lord's Prayer is by Margaret Rolfe, a member of the Centre for Progressive Religious Thought, Canberra, Australia.

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 Philippians 4:8.

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

HYMN

“WHEN CHRIST WAS LIFTED FROM THE EARTH”

1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his
2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and
3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -
4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may

arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,
al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels
I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -

ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.
as his friends and loves us as we are.
but a face, a per - son, and a name.
cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b.1936) Copyright ©1980 by Hope Publishing Company. Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979) Copyright ©
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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 follow the way of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“PRELUDE & FUGUE IN G MINOR” BY D. BUXTEHUDE

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Every Voice and Sing II) is reproduced under a license from RiteSong. All rights reserved.*

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

Facebook: @Trinitybuffalo

YouTube: Trinity Church Buffalo

Instagram: @trinity.church.buffalo

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

371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

STAFF

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

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

Jennifer Frey, Office Volunteer
clerical@trinitybuffalo.org

Rich Mpezos, Facility Manager
rmpezos@trinitybuffalo.org

Sarah Caputi, Caretaker
Denise Lanzilotta, Caretaker
Jay Mpezos, Caretaker

Janene Gall, Environmental Services

VESTRY

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Sue Doherty
Carol Siracuse
John Clayton, Section Leader
Steve Shanley
Tim Lane, Section Leader
Ignacio Villa

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Greeters: Susie Green, Judy Fitzgerald
Readers: Clint Brown, Jeffrey Tooke, Ansie Baird
Prayer Reader: Marie Keane
Announcements: Tim Lane
Altar Servers: John Alduino, Ed Fries, Jill Hilburger
Guest musician: Claire Fisher, violin
Counter: Erickson Contreras
Baker: Susie Green

All services are in person AND online:

Sunday @10:30am In-person worship while live streaming on Facebook and YouTube. The Sunday online Live Stream service remains accessible as a video recording on Trinity's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages after the service is over.

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

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

Thursday @7pm The wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery, in person and on Zoom

Email your request for a [link to the Zoom worship services here](#).