

A Service of Holy Communion

November 19, 2023 Year A, Proper 28 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: "Helianthus" by Matt Lincoln, 2020

This centering prayer is by Chaim Stern and may be found in Mishkan T'filah, published by the American Conference of Rabbis in 2007.

Welcome to Trinity's gathered community! We are together on-site and online!

The people of Trinity Church gather around a table piled high with spiritual food, and there is a place for you and everyone at the table, whatever your religious practice may be. If you are at Trinity in person, know that this congregation supports anyone who wears a mask to reduce risk of infection. Please feel free to receive communion and participate in the service as fully as you want. If you are watching the Facebook Live Stream, you may add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time! If you are on-site, you can use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshippers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down! WiFi internet access is publicly available. Use the "Trinity Open" network with the password "Welcome!"

Trinity Church is a metropolitan house of prayer, a community of worship and spiritual inquiry, welcoming all people. Recognizing our common brokenness, yet rejoicing in the reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ, we nurture one another in our spiritual life together. This communal worship service is many things, including an offering of your prayers. You may light a candle on one of the candle walls at any time during worship as a tangible way to make that prayer offering, or if you are online, request a candle lighting in the comments, and someone on-site will light a candle on your behalf. If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued.

Children, with all their sounds and movements, are a welcome part of the gathering for worship. It is perfectly appropriate to keep your kids with you in the pew. Additionally, there is a Kids' Corner in the back-right corner of the pews. It is an enclosed and safe space for small children (attended by their parents) to play quietly on the floor while staying in church. There is also a room in the back left corner of the church that has a rocking chair and a changing table where you can attend to your child.

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

Prelude

"PAVANE" BY G. FAURE

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles.

God, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing;

Let there be moments when Your Presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk.

Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed.

And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness, and exclaim in wonder. How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it! Amen.



Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897), alt. Music: *Munich*, melody from *Neu-vermehrtes und zu Übung Christl. Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes Meiningisches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. and harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1807-1847).

FIRST READING

I THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

But as to specific times and eras, sisters and brothers, you don't need me to tell you anything. You know very well that the Day of God is coming like a thief in the night. Just when people are saying, "At last we have peace and security," then destruction will fall on them with the suddenness of labor pains, and there will be no escape.

But you, sisters and brothers, are not in the dark. The Day of God will not catch you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to the darkness

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 Šcriptures, 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.

This echo is well known from the *musical* Godspell by John-Michael Tebelak with music by Stephen Schwartz. *The words of this* song are based on a prayer by 13thcentury English bishop Saint Richard of Chichester.

The Middle Reading fills the role of a *Bible reading, but* it doesn't come from the Bible. It is our way of trying to listen for God's ongoing word as it is spoken outside the *limits of the Bible.* Most often, we turn to contemporary poets for this reading.

James Crews is a Vermont poet who also leads workshops and retreats on mindfulness and writing. Helianthus, it turns out, are more familiar to us as sunflowers.

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

or the night. So let's not be asleep as others are. Let's be awake and sober! Those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. But we belong to the day, so let us be sober. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation.

God has destined us not to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Savior Jesus Christ, who died for us so that, whether awake or asleep, we might live together with Christ. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

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

ECHO (Sing through 2 times.) Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray: To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

"ANOTHER WORLD" BY JAMES CREWS

After spending all day in the house, I stepped out toward evening and entered another world as soon as the sun hit my skin. That's all it took, the light turning like a key in the lock of me, and the cells in my body swinging open as I noticed bees at work in the helianthus, every blossom yellow-tipped, orange at the center, like a child's drawing of the sunhundreds of blazing stars staring up at me from the unnamed galaxy of my own front yard.

MIDDLE READING

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

ECHO (Sing through 2 times.) see above

GOSPEL READING

esus said, "Again, it's like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and the third one thousand, according to their abilities. Then the landowner went away. Immediately the worker who received the five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, 'You entrusted me with five thousand; here are five thousand more.' The landowner said, 'Well

"DAY BY DAY"

"DAY BY DAY"

MATTHEW 25:14-30

done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!' The one who had received the two thousand then stepped forward with the additional two saying, 'You entrusted me with two thousand; here are two thousand more.' The landowner said, 'Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter. I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!'

Finally the one who had received the one thousand stepped forward and said to the landowner, 'Knowing your ruthlessness—you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter—and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.' The landowner exclaimed, 'You worthless, lazy lout! So you know that I reap where I don't sow and gather where I don't scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest! You, there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with the ten thousand. Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. Throw this worthless one outside into the darkness, where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.' "

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

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SERMON

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF **F**AITH

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who loved and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you. Amen. 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 of faith comes to us from the Book of Common Prayer of New Zealand. 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.

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

"DAY BY DAY"

COMMUNITY PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God of peace, we pray for the Israeli and Palestinian people in these perilous times.

For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves, we pray that the assurance of unfailing love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them. Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.

For all who are wounded, we pray they find healing.

For all who have died, we pray they find rest.

For all who grieve, we pray they find comfort.

For leaders on all sides, we pray for a renewed will to lay down arms, for the strength to put the grievances and wrongs suffered by their people to rest, and for the conviction to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all of your children.

God of mercy, help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection, no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.

God of justice, we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and that a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail. **Amen.**

Add your requests by scaning the We remember those for whom our prayers have been asked.



Margaret (Peggy) Rizzo Raymond Salamone Dale Worwa - in rehab after being in ICU Jeff Watson, requested by Catherine Gillespie Scott Howard - being treated for cancer, and his wife, Joanie Howard Bruce Nisbet - support during cancer treatment Jack & Cody Pelc and their parents - continued growth and support Celeste Richel - to get out of the NICU Kathy Jerzewski - whose lymphoma has returned Regina Glaser - in her battle with cancer Mary & Jack Hertenstein - both fighting serious health issues 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.

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.

Continued on next page

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.

Refrain:

Those who sow, who sow in tears, will reap in joy, will reap in joy. Those who sow, who sow in tears, will reap, will reap in joy.

THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY **A**NTHEM

"IF GOD IS BUILDING WHEN WE BUILD" TEXT BY BRIAN FOLEY, ARRANGED BY JOHN BARNARD

If God is building when we build, the house we raise will stand; If God designs when we design, his skill is in our hand.

If God is working when we work, to make the things we make; He gives approval and success to labor for his sake.

If God is speaking when we speak, our words become his word, And in the speech of every day, eternal things are heard.

If God is building when we build, we call each work our own, Though not for us to praise ourselves our praise is God alone!

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

All are welcome to receive Communion at Trinity Church. No Exceptions! The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

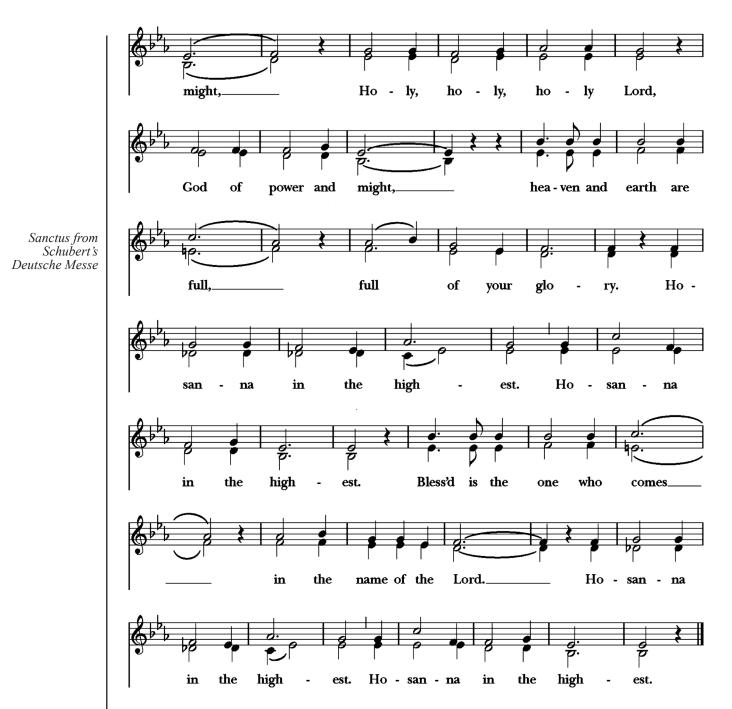
It is always right, and a good thing to thank God for creation and for the love with which God made and sustains and redeems all of existence. The last night Jesus gathered with his closest friends, he gave them the promise that he would always be with them, nourishing them as truly as the food and drink that sustain us day by day. **Because of their faithfulness, and the care with which they and the generations who followed have handed on that faith, we know the story of that night, and we too receive that promise.** So we join our voices with saints and angels, across time and space, outside of time and space who forever say,



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 OR code:



This Eucharistic Prayer is by Matt Lincoln.



Gracious God, somehow, it was not enough to make a universe. It seems you needed the joy of sharing it and sharing the process of creativity. So you included us in creation, making us in your image, to love and to create freely, as you do.

Yet, as we are free to love, so we are free to hate, and throughout human history, we have chosen to abandon your way as often as we have followed it. **But you have not abandoned us.** Instead, you poured yourself into human form, becoming one with us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, your son.

To show us the fullness of that offering, on the night before it was completed on the cross, Jesus ate supper with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and said, **"Take, eat. This is my Body given for you. Every time you eat bread, do so in remembrance of me."** After supper, he took the cup of wine, blessed it, gave it to his friends and said, **"Drink**

this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me."

Now accept our offering of thanks and praise, and send your Holy Spirit to bless us and this bread and wine to be the body and blood of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Give us grace to hope and trust that your Spirit lives in us and we in you, so we may have courage to love the world boldly in your name. Through Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, who live and reign with you, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Now, as Christ has taught us, we are bold to say: God, who cares for us, The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe. Let kindness, justice and love shine in our world. Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven. Give us the food and the hope we need for today. Forgive us our wrongdoing as we forgive the wrongs done to us. Protect us from pride and from despair and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up. In you is truth, meaning, glory and power, while worlds come and go. 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 at home, provide yourself with a morsel of bread and a sip of wine or any suitable substitutes you have.

For those in the building, you have several options: 1) stay in your place and receive communion from a communion kit that you picked up in the entrance to the church, or 2) bring a communion kit with you to the gathering near the altar and receive it in the company of others, or 3) come up to the altar and receive a piece of pita or a gluten-free cracker, or 4) come up, receive a piece of pita or gluten free cracker and ask the celebrant to dip it in the chalice so you can receive the wine as well.

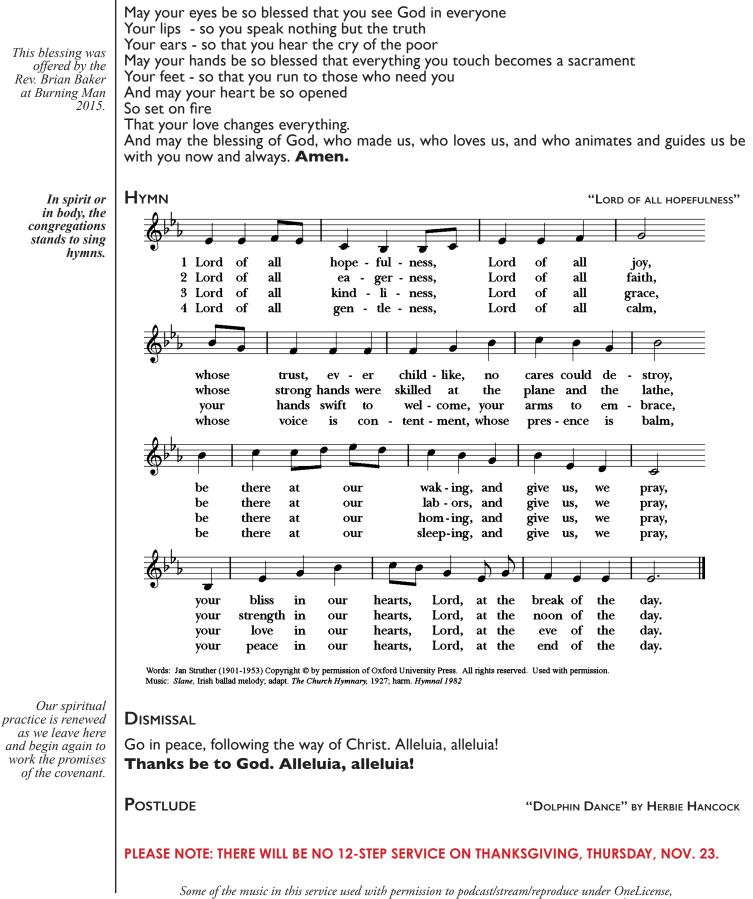
PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and remembering the body of Christ, which has been broken for the life of the world. Now give us grace to trust that we are a people, forgiven, healed, renewed. Give us the courage to proclaim your love to the world, and to continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen. 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 was written by Monica Furlong (1930-2003), a British author, journalist, and activist.

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.

BLESSING



Some of the music in this service used with permission to podcast/stream/reproduce under OneLicense, License #A-700776. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cards for Sale

Trinity window cards for sale after the 10:30 service on Sunday. \$15 for five cards, \$5 for one. They make great Christmas cards, hostess gifts, sympathy cards, etc.All proceeds benefit the restoration of our treasured windows.

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 Friendsgiving

Join Trinity friends after the 10:30 service on **Sunday, November 26,** for a warm potluck and fellowship. Email Tim at <u>t.w.lane@outlook.com</u> with the name of a dish or item that you would like to bring. Signup will also be available after the service on Sunday. Friends from outside Trinity are encouraged to attend.

Underground Railroad Tour

On **Sunday, November 26,** courtesy of the Episcopal Diocese, Trinity will have the opportunity to tour the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center as a group for free. The tour begins at 1pm with a 12:45pm arrival, and the tour lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Please contact Missy Stolfi (<u>missy.stolfi@gmail.com</u>) or Christian Eshelman (<u>christian.eshelman@yahoo.com</u>) to RSVP. If you'd like to be included in a carpool from Trinity to Niagara Falls, please let them know as well.

Supporting the children and families of Hamlin Park School

Trinity has had an ongoing relationship with Hamlin Park Claude & Ouida Clapp Academy for 6+ years, and we have been asked to purchase as many \$25 Tops gift cards as possible so they can give them away at their Holidays Around the World Celebration on Saturday, December 16th. Additionally, the school's social workers have said they always need children's socks, as many Hamlin Park kids show up without them on cold winter days. Here is a guide for sock sizes if you need it:

Sock SizeAge of Child10-134-6 years13-47-10 years4-811+ years9+older children

9+ older children with larger feet There is a collection bin in the red carpet area of the church as well as a box in the chapel for you to donate socks

and/or \$25 Tops gift cards. If it's easier for you to write a check, please mail it to the church office or put it in an offering plate or blue urn. Checks should be made out to: Trinity Church with Hamlin Park School in the memo line. Donations of gift cards, socks or checks should be received by **Sunday, December 10.** To learn more about Trinity's partnership with this school, visit the Say Yes Buffalo website: <u>https://sayyesbuffalo.org/community-schools/</u> Contact Sue Doherty at <u>susandoherty50@hotmail.com</u> with questions.

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> Judy Atkinson-Miller, <u>jatk1812@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> Vickie Kearns, <u>kearns.vr@gmail.com</u>





<u>www.trinitybuffalo.org</u> • (716) 852-8314

371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

Instagram: @trinity.church.buffal

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YouTube: Trinity Church Buffalo

Facebook: @Trinitybuffalo

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

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 Mpelezos, Facility Manager rmpelezos@trinitybuffalo.org

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

Janene Gall, Environmental Services

Vestry

John Gillespie Jr, Senior Warden John Alduino, Junior Warden Bing Sherrill, Treasurer Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk Emily Carlin Erickson Contreras Chris Cuccia Sue Doherty Judy Fitzgerald Tim Lane Megan McElfresh JoAnne Sundell Jeffrey Tooke

CHOIR MEMBERS

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Judy Fitzgerald
Sara Merritt, Abigail Ruggles, John Fantini
Connie Ervin
Susan Doherty
Jeffrey Tooke
Harry Fackelman, saxophone

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 - No service on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24.

Email your request for a link to the Zoom worship services here.