

A Service of Holy Communion May 11, 2025 Fourth 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.

# 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 are Kids' Corners in both side aisles. These are enclosed and safe spaces 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. That same room is also currently serving as the nursery, which is available for toddlers through age 5.

**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

"Beside Still Waters" (Psalm 23) by Raymond H. Haan

#### CENTERING PRAYER

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.

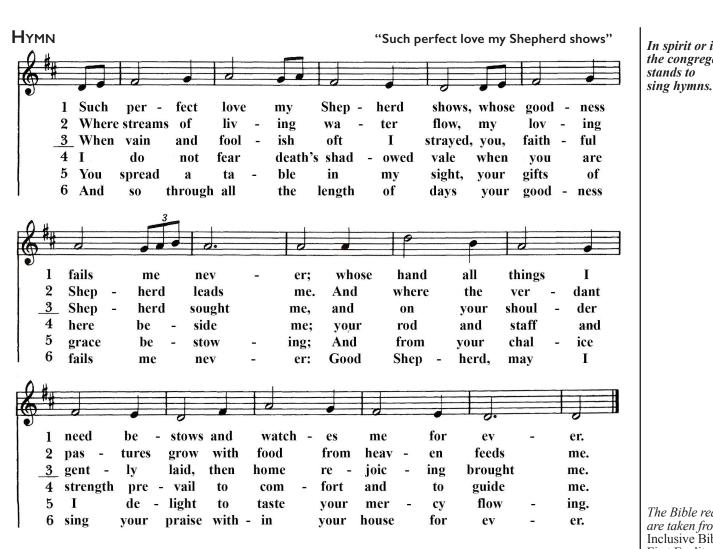
Cover image: The "Good Shepherd" window at Trinity by John La Farge

This centering

Praying With

The Earth.

prayer is by John Philip Newell from



The Bible readings are taken from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by

In spirit or in body, the congregation stands to

Priests for Equality.

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.

FIRST READING REVELATION 7:9-17

fter that, I saw before me an immense crowd without number, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They stood in front of the throne and the Lamb, dressed in long white robes and holding palm branches. And they cried out in a loud voice,

"Salvation is of our God, who sits on the throne, and of the Lamb!"

All the angels who were encircling the throne, as well as the elders and the four living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne. They worshiped God with these words: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These people in white robes—who are they, and where do they come from?" I answered, "You are the one who knows." Then the elder said to me, "These are the ones who survived the great period of testing; they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. That's why they stand before God's throne and the One they serve day and night in the Temple; the One who sits on the throne will shelter them forever. Never again will they be hungry or thirsty; the sun and its scorching heat will never beat down on them, for the Lamb, who is at the center of the throne, will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes."

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

#### Thanks be to God.

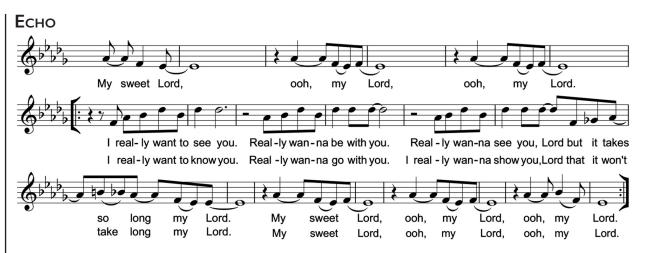
"My Sweet Lord" by George Harrison, was released in November 1970.

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.

Born in Dublin, Eamon Grennan (b. 1941) attended boarding school at a Cistercian monastery. He was an undergraduate at University College, Dublin, spent a year in Rome, and then came to the United States to earn his PhD at Harvard. He began writing poetry in earnest in 1977 and published his first collection, Wildly for Days, in 1983.

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.



#### MIDDLE READING

"BIBLICAL WISDOM" BY EAMON GRENNAN

While the Lord Himself may grant shelter from the sharp wind to the shorn lamb, it's hard to see how this desolate creature half-black half-white standing half-shorn by a rusted fence, with its tattered fleece flapping in the wind that's making shards of rosebushes and forcing fuchsia twigs to take flight across the glittergreen flurry of grass, can take much consolation from such tempering sentiments, no more than I can myself, caught out as I am in this stiff tempest of contradictions, the gale blowing all I know this way and that, and no way-as this stricken lamb knows (shivering in the untempered misery of its own lamb knowledge) no way but by a draught of animal patience to withstand it

all, all this buffeting, this way of the world and its weather . . . and so we wait—this half-shorn lamb and l—until there's a little relenting in this indifferent relentlessness and maybe, just maybe, the slight off-chance of an even incomplete rainbow, a shaft of sunlight and promise fighting its way to glory; the way, after a solid week of driving rain that shakes everything to the bone, comes the sudden intervention of a sunny upright cluster of tall foxgloves, trim and jaunty-purple, coming into blossom.

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

ECHO see above

GOSPEL READING JOHN 10:22-30

he time came for Hanukkah, the Feast of the Dedication, in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the Temple area, in Solomon's Porch, when the Temple authorities surrounded him and said, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you really are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus replied,

"I did tell you, but you don't believe. The work I do in my Abba's name gives witness in my favor, but you don't believe because you're not my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never be lost. No one will ever snatch them from my hand. Abba God, who gave them to me, is greater than anyone, and no one can steal them from Abba God. For Abba and I are One."

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

Thanks be to God.



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.

In particular, we have been asked to pray for:

Sheryl Jeeves

lack Barrett and family - battling cancer

John Michael

Jeff Watson

Jimmie Pitts - recovering from surgery

Kathy Chase, recovering from a car accident

Karen Hock - in rehab for two broken

kneecaps

Pete - throat cancer

Onofrio Palazzo - successful surgery and recovery

Linda Harris - battling stage 4 lung cancer Maryanne Nowacki - battling multiple myeloma

Alphonso and Marcia O'Neil-White Betsy Curtis

For those who died and all who mourn them - Meg Connelly, Ron Alsheimer, and Peter Curtis

Creating God, from the origin of our species, you fitted us with a grand vision for abundant life and community that most often exceeds our grasp: We bring before you today our desire for peace, our confession of neglect, and our promise to uphold the dignity of every human being. And we affirm

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 scaning the QR code.



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.

These prayers are an effort to pray with one voice even though we have a diversity of needs and hopes. 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: **neither death, nor life, nor rulers, nor powers, nor anything else in all creation, will separate us from your love, O God.** 

Life Giving God, we know that you have a dream 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!

#### **A**NNOUNCEMENTS

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"LOVING SHEPHERD" FROM CANTATA 208 BY J.S. BACH

Loving shepherd, comfort and guide us. Keep us in thy tender care. And in thy mercy stay beside us, safely thy lambs now gather Bring us in faith together, and thy pastures now prepare.

And when I walk with darkness around me, Thou art near and I fear no ill. So, with thy love and kindness surround me, goodness and mercy bringing, From living water springing, Lord of love grant me comfort still.

#### 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.

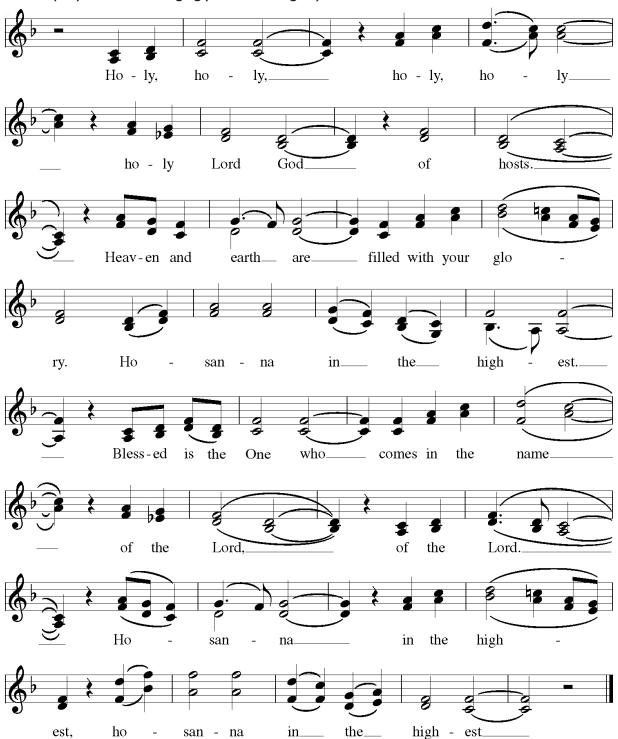
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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

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 TRINITYBUFFALÖ 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. 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:



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."

Every Voice and Sing, an African American hymnal

Sanctus from Lift

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 comes from Parker J. Palmer, an American author, educator, and activist who focuses on issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change. He has published ten books and numerous essays and poems, and is founder and Senior Partner Emeritus of the Center for Courage and Renewal.

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.

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:

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name.

We pray for your reign of peace to come,

We pray that your good will be done,

Let heaven and earth become one.

Give us this day the bread we need,

Give it to those who have none.

Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,

From each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence

Beyond the evil of our days —

Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.

For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:

Forever your name is All in One. 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, 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.

#### **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.** 

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

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



Words: Hymns for the Young, ca. 1830, alt. Music: Sicilian Mariners, Sicilian melody, from The European Magazine and London Review, 1792

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** 

"TAKE THE A TRAIN" BY BILLY STRAYHORN

# **A**NNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Trinity Discussion Group: Spring 2025 Book Study**

Join Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke on **Wednesdays** @**7pm** through June 18 via Zoom (Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk) for a study of John Pavlovitz's new book Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending. Explore how to maintain our Christian values and perspective within the current challenging environment that threatens our democracy and our desired values of compassion and mercy. Books are available to borrow from the church or purchase <a href="here">here</a>. Please email leffrey Tooke at <a href="mailto:jeffreytooke@outlook.com">jeffreytooke@outlook.com</a> for more information.

Jung Center of Buffalo to host The Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox: "Navigating the Dark Night of Soul, Society, and Our Species: Lessons and Archetypes from Mystics Hildegard de Bingen, Mechtild of Magdeburg, Hafiz, and John of the Cross," on Friday, May 23 @7pm via Zoom.In this presentation, Dr. Fox likens the current world crisis to a "dark night of the soul," a phrase attributed to St. John of the Cross. The question before us is, "How do we navigate this dark night, how do we find meaning in this challenging time facing our nation and world, spiritually, psychologically, politically, economically, and environmentally?" Dr. Fox looks for the source of guidance in the wisdom of the mystics from the major world faith traditions. You may reserve your spot on Zoom at <a href="info.jungcenterbuffalo@gmail.com">info.jungcenterbuffalo@gmail.com</a>. A suggested donation of \$10 would be gratefully accepted on our website at <a href="jungbuffalo.org">jungbuffalo.org</a>. More details can be found at <a href="https://www.jungbuffalo.org/events/save-the-date-zoom-watch-with-the-rev-dr-matthew-fox">https://www.jungbuffalo.org/events/save-the-date-zoom-watch-with-the-rev-dr-matthew-fox</a>

#### **Pride Paraders Wanted!**

**Sunday, June 1,** meet at Buffalo State College @10am. Shirts can be ordered by May 25, \$TBD. Decorating the float for a wedding theme on Thursday, May 29. Artificial flowers will be needed. Please contact Christian at 716-830-4365 or <a href="mailto:christian.eshelman@yahoo.com">christian.eshelman@yahoo.com</a>

#### **Compass House Golf Classic**

Join our friends at Compass House for the Richard L. Martin Memorial Golf Classic! Get ready for a fun-filled day at River Oaks Golf Club in Grand Island on **Monday, June 23,** filled with great food, an exciting raffle, amazing prizes, and fantastic golf — all in support of the homeless and runaway youth at Compass House. Tickets are available now using the link or QR code. To volunteer at the event, reach out to Adam Noonan at <a href="mailto:anoonan@compasshouse.org">anoonan@compasshouse.org</a> or Missy Stolfi <a href="missy.stolfi@gmail.com">missy.stolfi@gmail.com</a> can connect you. Tickets: click here.

#### **Worship Helpers Needed**

Are you willing to be involved with reading from the altar, greeting people at the door and helping direct them with what to expect, providing hospitality by baking for coffee hour, or helping serve communion to the gathered community? Please sign up at: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fafa629a3f58-trinity2">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fafa629a3f58-trinity2</a> or reach out to Jeffrey Tooke at <a href="jeffreytooke@outlook.com">jeffreytooke@outlook.com</a> to be placed on a list of volunteers when we have worship volunteer slots to fill. If you are interested in being more involved, but aren't interested in any of these roles, you can also plan on helping during services by bringing a device to connect to Facebook viewers and responding to comments during the service.

#### **Altar Prep Volunteers Needed**

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

#### **Visiting Trinity**

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

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

The Comfort and Care Team is here to help and support you or someone you know experiencing health or other life challenges. Email any one of us to request prayers, a caring phone call, notes, information on resources, a friendly visit, or arranging meals.

Phoebe McKay, phoebemckay@gmail.com
Susie Green, susie432@gmail.com
Patti Nisbet, tudorspace@aol.com

Marie Keane, MNMKeane@gmail.com
Sara Merritt, smerrit 172@gmail.com

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

Trinity has a parking lot behind the church on Franklin Street. Parking is available for no fee on Sundays from 9am - noon. You can use the lot any other time you are in the neighborhood so that Trinity gets the parking fee! Use your smartphone to pay. You may wish to download the Premium Parking app ahead of time to make it easier to park and go.



#### Explore Buffalo - May 29 is the next date scheduled

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. <a href="https://explorebuffalo.org/sacred-spaces/trinity-episcopal-church/">https://explorebuffalo.org/sacred-spaces/trinity-episcopal-church/</a>



#### **Computer 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 <a href="mailto:jeffreytooke@outlook.com">jeffreytooke@outlook.com</a>



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

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**V**ESTRY

Erickson Contreras, Senior Warden IoAnne Sundell, Junior Warden

Bing Sherrill, Treasurer

Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk

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

CHOIR MEMBERS

John Clayton, Section Leader

Sue Doherty Christina Kinney

Tim Lane, Section Leader Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick Laura Munson, Section Leader

Tom Owen Jennifer Ross

Laura Schleicher, Section Leader

Chris Schmigel Steve Shanley lamie Toenniessen

Jocelyn Toenniessen, Section Leader

Ignacio Villa

#### Today's Worship Team

Voice of Trinity (Facebook): Julie Keller-Rizzo Cyber Sacristan: Christian Eshelman

Greeter: Judy Fitzpatrick, Susie Green, JoAnne Sundell Susan Doherty, Missy Stolfi, Emily Carlin Readers:

JoAnne Sundell Announcements: Cheryl Fisher Prayers:

**Communion Ministers:** Missy Stolfi, Cheryl Fisher, Linda Wagner

Guest musicians: George Caldwell, piano; Matt Harris, saxophone

Counter: JoAnne Sundell Coffee Hour: Susan Doherty

## 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.