trinity @7
12.05.2021
welcome

Trinity @7 welcomes you in person and via Zoom. This is a time where we enjoy jazz combined with poetry and a thoughtful reflection. We’re always glad to see you and to share this special time together. Even though some of us are in person and others on Zoom, we are one community for a little while. What joy!

No matter the venue, may you experience stillness when it is needed and much joy and laughter when they are needed, or perhaps when least expected. Besides beautiful music and words, we hope this evening brings you a little bit of peace.

We will continue to have a candle lighting time, either at a candle wall in the chapel or in your home.

As Erie County is again requiring masks to be worn inside, please wear your mask while in the building.

a centering prayer

In the gift of this day,
in the gift of the present moment,
in the gift of time and eternity intertwined,
let us be grateful,
let us be attentive,
let us be open to what has never happened before,
in the gift of this day,
in the gift of the present moment,
in the gift of time and eternity intertwined.

amen

interlude

Hope

by Lisel Mueller

It hovers in dark corners
before the lights are turned on,
it shakes sleep from its eyes
and drops from mushroom gills,
it explodes in the starry heads
dandelions turned sages,
it sticks to the wings of green angels
that sail from the tops of maples.
It sprouts in each occluded eye
of the many-eyed potato,
it lives in each earthworm segment
surviving cruelty,
it is the motion that runs
from the eyes to the tail of a dog,
it is the mouth that inflates the lungs
of the child that has just been born.
It is the singular gift
we cannot destroy in ourselves,
the argument that refutes death,
the genius that invents the future,
all we know of God.
It is the serum which makes us swear
not to betray one another;
it is in this poem, trying to speak.

interlude

Blessing of Hope

by Jan Richardson

So may we know
the hope
that is not just
for someday
but for this day—
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us:

hope not made
of wishes
but of substance,

hope made of sinew
and muscle
and bone,

hope that has breath
and a beating heart,

hope that will not
keep quiet
and be polite,

hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for,

hope that knows
how to sing
when there seems
little cause,

hope that raises us
from the dead—
not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and
again and
again.

interlude

Jan Richardson is
an artist, writer, and
ordained minister
in the United
Methodist Church.
Rev Richardson
resides in Florida
and serves as
director of The
Wellspring Studio,
LLC. She has
traveled widely as
a retreat leader and
conference speaker.
Tonight’s reading is
take from The Cure
for Sorrow: A Book
of Blessings for
Times of Grief.
Hope
by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Hope has holes
in its pockets.
It leaves little
crumb trails
so that we,
when anxious,
can follow it.
Hope’s secret:
it doesn’t know
the destination–
it knows only
that all roads
begin with one
foot in front
of the other.

interlude

Every day as a wide field, every page
by Naomi Shihab Nye

1
Standing outside
staring at a tree
gentles our eyes

We cheer
to see fireflies
winking again

Where have our friends been
all the long hours?
Minds stretching

beyond the field
become
their own skies

Windows doors
grow more
important

Look through a word
swing that sentence
wide open

Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer is a published Colorado poet and acappella singer. She wrote a poem a day from 2006 until the death of her son in August 2021. After taking a break from writing, she has resumed her practice of a poem a day. Visit her at www.wordwoman.com.

Naomi Shihab Nye (b. 1952) is an American poet about whom the Poetry Foundation says, “she is known for poetry that lends a fresh perspective to ordinary events, people, and objects. Nye has said that, for her, ‘the primary source of poetry has always been local life, random characters met on the streets, our own ancestry sifting down to us through small essential daily tasks.’”
Kneeling outside
to find
sturdy green
glistening blossoms
under the breeze
that carries us silently

2
And there were so many more poems to read!
Countless friends to listen to.
We didn’t have to be in the same room—
the great modern magic.
Everywhere together now.
Even scared together now
from all points of the globe
which lessened it somehow.
Hopeful together too, exchanging
winks in the dark, the little lights blinking.
When your hope shrinks
you might feel the hope of
someone far away lifting you up.
Hope is the thing...
Hope was always the thing!
What else did we give each other
from such distances?
Breath of syllables,
sing to me from your balcony
please! Befriend me
in the deep space.
When you paused for a poem
it could reshape the day
you had just been living.

interlude

reflection

interlude

brief silent meditation
the candle lighting
While Krista plays, feel free to light a candle at one of the walls. Let’s do so mindfully and one at a time, leaving space between you and the person in front. If you’re lighting a candle at home, do so as if you were in a sacred space. You are.

closing prayer
May the angels of light
glisten for us this night.
May the sparks of God’s beauty
dance in the eyes of those we love.
May the universe
be on fire with Presence for us this night.
May the new sun’s setting
grace us with gratitude.
Let earth’s greenness shine
and its waters breathe with Spirit.
Let heaven’s winds stir the soil of our soul
and fresh awakenings rise within us.
May the mighty angels of light
glisten in all things this night.
May they summon us to reverence,
may they call us to life.

amen

postlude

Prayer written by John Philip Newell.
For our service tonight, we took the liberty of replacing the word “day” with “night,” and the “sun’s rising” was changed to “sun’s setting.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent 2021: Journeying Back Into Community
Come explore stories of journeying from exile and isolation back into community through discussion and reflection on both Old and New Testament passages on Tuesday evenings @7pm with Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke. On Tuesday, December 7 @7pm, we will look at some passages from the Book of Ezra to explore how the rebuilding of the Temple was a journey back into community for those Israelites who had been in exile in Babylon. You are invited to join Tim and Jeff on Tuesdays @7pm using this Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXXFoNzVYYdHZvSHZONG1NUOwZz09
Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672 Passcode: trintalk
Email Jeffrey Tooke at jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com for more information.
Christmas Concert with Paul Cena
Enjoy the beauty of seasonal music while relaxing in the calm of Trinity’s sanctuary. Come to hear our very own Paul Cena perform a free Christmas organ concert on Friday, December 17 @ noon. He will perform classical and contemporary arrangements of traditional Christmas tunes intended to explore all the sound colors of the Trinity organ.

Christmas Flower Donations
Many parishioners wish to donate to the decorating of the church at Christmas. This is gratefully accepted. To facilitate this, you can use the flower envelope found in the church pews or donate electronically here. Thank you for helping make Trinity the beautiful inviting place that it is with both the gifts of your presence and the gifts you donate.

Angel Tree = Opportunities to Share Your Blessings
Trinity works with various organizations throughout the year, and would like to support them this holiday season, too. As you prepare for the holiday season, please consider sharing your blessings with Compass House, Hamlin Park School, and Justice for Migrant Families (JFMF). The angel tree has different colored tags for the different organizations. Compass House is looking for help making the holidays brighter. Please consider buying a new, unwrapped gift for a teen. Some ideas include: gift cards to Target, Tim Horton, fun socks, hats and gloves, blank journals and pens, art supplies, books, puzzle books, pajamas, slippers, t-shirts. Any questions? Ask Judy Atkinson Miller, jatk1812@gmail.com Trinity’s representative to the Compass House Board. Judy is also willing to shop for you if you want to make a cash donation. Hamlin Park Academy has asked the teachers what the student needs are for the holidays, and there is an Amazon Wish List for items requested. Can you purchase something for these kids for the holidays?
Justice for Migrant Families is seeking dignity backpacks containing toiletries, warm hats, gloves, a track phone, water bottle and snacks. They are also collecting outerwear and new underwear for men recently released from Detention. Please email Holly Maloney at hmaloney42@gmail.com with any questions. Dignity bags, coats, and underwear can be dropped off at Trinity; please indicate it’s for JFMF. Click here to make monetary donation.
Please bring any items purchased to Trinity by Sunday, December 12. They can be placed around the Christmas tree in the red carpet area, in the appropriately labeled area. If you are ordering online, you can have the items shipped directly to Trinity. Please indicate which organization should receive your gift. Thank you for your generosity.

Justice for Migrant Families
As families across the United States prepare to be together, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has left more than thirty people at the side of the road at a gas station in rural Western New York with nothing but the clothes on their back. They have no access to phones, appropriate clothing for the winter weather, food, money, limited or no English proficiency, and few transportation options. What should be a moment of joy and relief soon turns into a moment of yet more adversity and dehumanization. Justice for Migrant Families (JFMF) has joined forces with Batavia volunteers Los Samaritanos to make sure that every person we find is reunited with family and community and has support in the final leg of their arduous journey. We have been able to help two hundred people this year alone. Donate today to keep this vital work going! What has transpired over the past week is a microcosm of the work that JFMF has done over the past five years. Since its founding in 2016, in response to the largest workplace raid under the Obama administration, JFMF has been able to respond to these urgent situations while also building an on-the-ground daily presence in Buffalo and Western New York. We continue to balance this direct support with organizing, advocacy, and education. This support stabilizes the lives of immigrant families and makes it easier for them, as the most directly impacted people, to join and lead our organizing efforts. It’s because of YOUR financial investment in JFMF that we can continue to fight for justice and equity for all immigrants in our community, regardless of immigration status or country of origin. - In love, struggle, and solidarity, Justice for Migrant Families.
Thank you to Krista for the beautiful music.
Thank you to Matt Lincoln for bringing us together in every way he can imagine and then for being with us and reflecting from his heart.
Thank you to our host and readers.
Thank you to all the poets and musicians in the world who reflect life back to us in the most beautiful ways.
And of course, thank you.

If you’d like to visit Trinity Church in person for some quiet contemplation or to view the stunning stained glass windows, the church is open for private prayer or meditation by appointment. You are required to sign a registry at the entrance to be used in the event contact tracing is necessary. For private visits, masks are not required if you are fully vaccinated. Contact our parish administrator, Colleen O’Neill, at coneill@trinitybuffalo.org to schedule an appointment.

Trinity has worked so hard during the pandemic to keep people’s spiritual lives refreshed and engaged. We kept the whole staff on payroll. We learned how to make Trinity services available online, either with Zoom or Facebook live streaming or both. We’ve made a commitment to continue with our communities—online and in person. Your donation can be an expression of your gratitude for Trinity and all the blessings in your life and your hope for health in the world. You can donate online here, or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256 OR as you exit, you can make a contribution in the Big Blue Urn. Thank you for your participation and contribution. Peace.

All services are in person AND online:
Sunday @10:30am    Includes communion at an open table
Sunday @7:00pm    An encounter with God through poetry, jazz, and meditation
Trinity @7 will not meet on Dec 26 and Jan 2. We'll gather again on Jan 9.
Wednesday @Noon    Prayer and holy conversation
Thursday @7pm    12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality