



An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11.22.2020

Welcome to Trinity's online community!

As you watch the Live Stream of this service, feel free to add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time!

You might want to light a candle and place it near you. During the service, you will be invited to light a candle if you haven't already, so at least gather what you need for that moment if you wish to participate.

This service, streamed live on Facebook, is a complete offering in itself. Nevertheless, it is followed by an opportunity to participate in online communion via Zoom. A link to that Zoom meeting will appear in the comments on Facebook at the end of this service.

*Cover image:
"Sheep or goat?" by
Matt Lincoln, 2013*

When we don't have to practice social distancing, 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. For now, this is a time of sharing and connecting with one another, knowing that we are bound together by God's love. 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.

Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church and a member parish of the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania in the United States and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide. If you would like to learn more about Trinity, see all our contact information on the last page.

PRELUDE

"THE PEACOCKS" BY JIMMY ROWLES

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray out loud, together:

This church is a field where mustard seeds are planted.

Oh, God, let our small faith grow.

This church is a loaf leavened with your hope.

Oh God, let our trust rise with your Spirit.

This church is prepared for a banquet.

**Oh, God, let us come dressed in the garment of love,
which holds all together in harmony.**

Amen.

*The Centering
Prayer is by Matt
Lincoln, based on
a quotation from
Tirabassi & Grant,
An Improbable Gift
of Blessing.*

OPENING HYMN

"O DAY OF RADIANT GLADNESS"



1 O day of ra - diant glad - ness, O day of joy and light;
 2 This day at the cre - a - tion the light first had its birth;
 3 This day God's peo - ple, meet - ing, the Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;
 4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, up - on the pil - grim way,



O balm of care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright;
 this day for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
 Christ's liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through bread and cup made near.
 at length our rest at - tain - ing, our end - less Sab - bath day.



This day the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
 This day our God vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heaven,
 We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, re - newed with heaven - ly might,
 We sing to you our prais - es, our Hope, our Joy, our Sun:



sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" to the great God tri - une.
 and thus this day most glo - rious a tri - ple light was given.
 from grace more grace re - ceiv - ing on this blessed day of light.
 the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blessed Three in One.

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.

The Bible readings are taken from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality.

Christopher Wordsworth, Anglican priest, wrote voluminously on the Bible and church history in addition to his hymn writing. This hymn is from his Holy Year, 1862.

Tune: ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN
7.6.7.6.D.

*Memmingen manuscript, 17th century
Harm. George R. Woodward, 1904*

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep: I will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when their flocks are scattered in every direction, so I will search for my sheep and rescue them, no matter where they scattered on that day of full clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the countries and bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by its streams and wherever there is a settlement. I will feed them on good pasture land, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing ground. I myself will tend my flock and have it lie down, thus says the Lord God. I will seek out the lost, I will return the strayed, I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and I will watch over the fat and the sleek. I will be a true shepherd to them.

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.

Nikki Grimes is a New York Times bestselling poet and author and recipient of the 2017 Children's Literature Legacy Medal. She is the author of Ordinary Hazards (WordSong, 2019), which received the ALA Michael Printz Honor, ALA Robert F. Sibert Honor, and the 2020 Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Award for Nonfiction. She lives in Corona, California.

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.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to you: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep, for you shove aside the weak with flank and shoulder; you butt them with your horns until they are scattered in every direction. I will save my flock and they will be ravaged no longer. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will set up over them one shepherd to care for them: my servant David. He will care for them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord God, will be their God, and my servant David will be their leader. I, God, have spoken.

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

Thanks be to God.

MIDDLE READING

Here, poem meets prayer:
We are exceedingly comfortable
with posturing and self-defense
that masquerade as apology.
But what's needed in this moment
is unmixed confession
of our nation's sin,
deep and indefensible.
"Now I lay me down to sleep"
must make way for
something more muscular:
sack cloth and ashes,
prayer and fasting,
naked prostration.
Daniel understood
radical repentance begins

"YOU STILL DREAM" BY NIKKI GRIMES

with this unvarnished profession:
You are righteous,
and we are not.
Please heal our nation.
Cleanse our stubborn hearts.
Show each of us what part to play.
Broken as Judah and Jerusalem,
we cry and come bending our will
toward the good
you dream for us still,
no matter our sin,
no matter what skin
we're in.

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

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25: 31-46

Jesus said, "At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all the nations assembled below. Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be placed on the right hand, and the goats on the left.

The ruler will say to those on the right, 'Come, you blessed of my God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry, and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill, and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.' Then these just will ask, 'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?' The ruler will answer them, 'The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.'

Then the ruler will say to those on the left, 'Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels! I was hungry, and you gave me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you gave me no welcome; naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to visit me.' Then they in turn will ask, 'When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you?' The answer will come, 'The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.' They will go off to eternal punishment, and the just will go off to eternal life."

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

Thanks be to God.

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

SERMON

THE RT. REV. SEAN ROWE, BISHOP OF WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We affirm our faith in one God -
Source of all life,
greater than all names and forms,
source of our being,
closer than any.
Upon this one God
we depend for all we are
and for all that ever will be.**

**And we affirm our faith in Christ -
Who has shown us the way to true Life
by breaking the chain of human bondage,
through his self-giving life and death
and by his rising again,
he has given us hope for a new humanity,
hope for the healing of earth's life.**

**And we affirm our faith in the living Spirit of God -
Through whom we awaken to God's purpose for the world,
and share in the freedom, joy and peace of the children of God.
For by his Spirit God's love has flooded our lives,
shaping us into a community of forgiven and freely accepted
brothers and sisters set apart for God's service,
and risen with Christ we share in his work for God's world
of everlasting life, justice and peace.
Amen.**

This creed is from the Church of South India. Like all summaries of historic and communal belief, this is intended as a symbol of unity and continuity rather than a litmus test of one's individual commitment to a particular dogma.

COMMUNITY PRAYER: RECEIVING AND RELEASING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

If you haven't already lit a candle near where you are seated, you are invited to do so now. For the next few moments, sit quietly and offer your prayers to God for yourself, those close to you and all of the human family. Today's invitation to pray for each other, the church and the world is based on the prayers of Walter Brueggeman and several others. Words will alternate with music, giving you a chance to listen to the still small voice only you can hear, and to respond in the comment section if you wish.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Loving God, you have set us in families and clans, in cities and neighborhoods.

Our common life began in a garden, but our destiny lies in the city.

You have placed us in and around Buffalo. This is our home.

Your creativity is on display here through the work of human hearts and hands.

We pray for Buffalo today—for the East Side and the West Side, North Buffalo and South Buffalo.

Musical Response

We pray for our poorest neighbors and for powerful people in banks and businesses downtown.

We pray for people from the First Ward and the Fruit Belt.

We pray for neighboring communities from Olcott to Olean, from Angola to Albion, and a thousand other cities connected to our own.

Musical Response

In all our neighborhoods this day there will be crime and callous moneymaking; there will be powerful people unable or unwilling to see the vulnerable who are their neighbors.

There will also be beautiful acts of compassion and creativity in all these places—forgiveness and generosity; neighbors working together for a more just community.

Help us see this place as something other than a battleground between us and them, where our imaginations are limited by win/lose propositions and endless rivalry.

Show us a deeper reality, God: Show us your Beloved Community.

Musical Response

We pray also for all who are sick or lonely, all who are overwhelmed by difficult circumstances, or trapped in harmful relationships. We pray for all who grieve, and all who live in fear. We pray for all who are dependent on the compassionate care of others, and for those who work tirelessly to care for the ones who are in need.

Prosper our city, and help us to trust that you are God, we pray in the name of the one who wept over the city.

Amen.

Musical Response

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

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. While the church is not open, Trinity has made a commitment to keep staff on the payroll. Plus, all the Trinity services are available online, either with Zoom or Facebook live streaming. You can [donate online here](#). You can also mail a check to Trinity at 371 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14202. Thank you!

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.

The prayer of St. Chrysostom is found in both Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer in the Book of Common Prayer.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

When I was hungry, did you feed me?
When I was shivering, did you bring me clothes?
When I was thirsty, did you bring me water?
When I was homeless, did you give me a home?

When I was fearful, did you give protection?
When I was injured, did you offer care?
When I was threatened, did you stand for Justice?
And when imprisoned, keep a vigil there?

O my sisters! O my brothers!
If you do this for the least of these,
You do this for me, with God in your heart.

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these the homeless, tempest tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!
With God in your heart.

"I LIFT MY LAMP" BY GWYNETH WALKER

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

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.**

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

**Gracious God, you have given us grace at this time
with one accord to make our common supplication to you;
and you have promised through your well-beloved Son
that when two or three are gathered together in his Name
you will be in the midst of them:
Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us;
granting us in this world knowledge of your truth,
and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

BLESSING

The bishop blesses the community, and we respond.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"SOON AND VERY SOON"

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King; —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,

— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, — we're goin' to see the King!

1. 2. 3. 4.
— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

— jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

DISMISSAL

Take your leave, trusting that we are made one in Christ, to shine in the world with God's light. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"CONCERTO FOR T. ALBINONI" (FIRST MOVEMENT) BY J. WALTHER

SERVICES @TRINITY

In the interest of staying connected and sharing what we can of our spiritual life together, here's our service lineup:

SUNDAY MORNING @10:30 Live streaming on Facebook. The Sunday online Live Stream service remains accessible as a video recording on Trinity's Facebook page after the service is over.

TRINITY @7 Zoom gatherings on Sunday night @7pm featuring poetry and jazz.

WEDNESDAY @NOON Zoom gatherings offering prayer and holy conversation.

THURSDAY @7 Zoom gatherings @7pm offering the wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery.

This plan will be in place for the foreseeable future. It's clear we will not have any sizable groups for many months to come. If you have ideas about safe ways to use our building for spiritual enrichment, please contact the church office to share your ideas and plans for implementation. Please continue to read the newsletters to stay informed.

Click here to [find the readings](#).

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

THURSDAY @NOON TO 2PM OR BY APPOINTMENT The church will be open for private prayer or meditation. You can chat quietly with one of the volunteers, or if you need, you can ask them to pray with you. Please wear a mask. You are required to sign a registry at the entrance to be used in the event contact tracing is necessary.

The **Everything Happens: Kate Bowler Podcast Discussion** group will gather one more time this **Tuesday, November 24, at 7pm**, facilitated by Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke.

Use this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONGI NUUowZz09>

Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672

Passcode: trintalk

This week's podcast: **NOVEMBER 24, 2020: Bishop Curry: The Power of Ordinary Love**

Podcast Link: <https://katebowler.com/podcasts/bishop-michael-curry-the-power-of-ordinary-love/>

Discussion questions: <https://katebowler.com/resources/discussion-questions-for-bishop-michael-curry-the-power-of-ordinary-love/>

If you are interested in joining the podcast discussion group or have questions about the group, please send an email to Jeffrey Tooke at jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com to receive more information.

Journeying the Way of Love During Advent Discussion Group

During this Advent, Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke will be facilitating the Journeying the Way of Love: Advent as a discussion group on Tuesdays at 7pm, starting **December 1**. Based on the Episcopal Church's Way of Love commitment to practices for a Jesus-Centered life, the Advent curriculum Journeying the Way of Love offers the opportunity to explore how we can live the Way of Love while we await the coming of Christ by exploring the first two chapters of Luke. We invite you to make this discussion group part of your spiritual practice for Advent.

If you are interested in joining the podcast discussion group or have questions about the group, please send an email to Jeffrey Tooke at jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com to receive more information. Interested persons will receive the zoom link for the discussion group as well as ongoing information for the upcoming discussion each week.



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

 www.facebook.com/TrinityBuffalo

 Instagram: [@trinity.church.buffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinity.church.buffalo)

 Twitter: [@trinitybuffalo1](https://twitter.com/trinitybuffalo1)

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Peter Dow
Dan Galley
Steve Shanley
Tyler Mecklenburg, *Section Leader*
Peter Curtis
Tom Owen

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Vocalists: Laura Munson, Suzanne Fata, John Clayton, Tyler Mecklenburg
Saxophone: Bobby Militello
Readers: Melinda Franco, Bruce Nisbett, Patty Kibler-Fries
Cyber Sacristan: Jeffrey Tooke

Sunday @10:30am Reflection, prayer, and music

Sunday @7:00pm An encounter with God through poetry and jazz

Wednesday @Noon Prayer and holy conversation

Thursday @7pm 12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality