



**An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music**

Third Sunday after Easter

04.25.2021

## 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!**

**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.**

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.

*Cover Photo of  
Salisbury Cathedral  
by Slawek Staszczuk.*

### PRELUDE

PSALM 23 ("BESIDE STILL WATERS") BY RAYMOND H. HAAN

### CENTERING PRAYER

Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

*The centering prayer  
is a poem written by  
John Philip Newell  
and can be found in  
his book, Praying  
With The Earth.*

## OPENING HYMN

"MORNING HAS BROKEN"



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. \_\_\_\_\_  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass. \_\_\_\_\_  
 born of the one light E - den saw play! \_\_\_\_\_



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. \_\_\_\_\_  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt., Copyright © by permission of David Higham Associates Limited, London. Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*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.*

## FIRST READING

I JOHN 3:16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ died for us. And we, too, ought to lay down our lives for our sisters and brothers. If you have more than enough material possessions and see your neighbors in need yet close your hearts to them, how can the love of God be living in you? My children, our love must not be simply words or mere talk—it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth. This, then, is how we'll be confident in God's presence, even if our consciences condemn us. We know that God is greater than our consciences and that God knows everything. And if our consciences do not condemn us, my friends, then we have confidence before God, and we will receive whatever we ask from God's hand—because we keep the commandments and do what is pleasing in God's sight. The commandments are these, that we believe in the name of God's Own, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as we were told to do. Those who keep these commandments live in God and God lives in them. We know that God lives in us by the Spirit given to us.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

MIDDLE READING

*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.*

*Dan Bellm is a writer, editor, and translator living in Berkeley, California. He has published four books of poetry, including Practice, winner of a 2009 California Book Award and named one of the Top Ten Poetry Books of 2008 by the Virginia Quarterly Review. He teaches poetry and literary translation in the Antioch University Los Angeles MFA in Creative Writing Program. This poem is included in Mishkan Haseder: A Poetry Haggadah.*

You must prepare to carry nothing where you walk,  
a God who cannot be seen,  
a name you cannot speak—  
therefore gather  
the most precious of what you have,  
and build me something heavy you can carry,  
heavy as you want.  
I will be weightless in it,  
an idea, a promise,  
among you, within you—  
I will be unbearable. You can bear it.  
Over and over you will pick it up  
and set it down,  
and as you wander  
you will lose what you brought forth,  
the ark will collapse in your hands,  
the stones of the law will break.  
Then you will carry me in your minds,  
in your mouths—  
unbearable as you want. You can bear it.  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 10: 11-18

*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.*

I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd would die for the sheep.  
The hired hand, who is neither shepherd nor owner of the sheep,  
catches sight of the wolf coming  
and runs away,  
leaving the sheep to be scattered  
or snatched by the wolf.  
That's because the hired hand works only for pay  
and has no concern for the sheep.  
I am the good shepherd.  
I know my sheep  
and my sheep know me,  
in the same way Abba God knows me  
and I know God—

Continued on next page

and for these sheep  
I will lay down my life.  
I have other sheep  
that don't belong to this fold—  
I must lead them too,  
and they will hear my voice.  
And then there will be one flock,  
one shepherd.  
This is why Abba God loves me—  
because I lay down my life,  
only to take it up again.  
No one takes my life from me;  
I lay it down freely.  
I have the power to lay it down,  
and I have the power to take it up again.  
This command I received from my Abba.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

THE REV. CATHY DEMPESY-SIMS

CANON TO THE ORDINARY, EPISCOPAL PARTNERSHIP OF NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA AND WESTERN NEW YORK

### MUSICAL REFLECTION

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**We are not alone, we live in God's Creation.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

*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.*

*This creed comes from the United Church of Canada. 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.*

## COMMUNITY PRAYER

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 for the protection of all people around the world from the coronavirus, and for those who care for the sick, for those who are helping us all get vaccinated, for those who have taken great personal risks to maintain the well-being and safety of others throughout the pandemic. We pray also for all others 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](#), or initiate an online donation by texting the word "give" to (716) 221-8580

*This version of the Lord's Prayer was written by the Rev. Jim Burklo in 2010. He is the Associate Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. An ordained United Church of Christ pastor, he is the author of several books.*

*We are following a pattern of using an alternative interpretation of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks and then using the traditional Prayer Book version for a week or two, and then going to a different interpretation for a few weeks, etc.*

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

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

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 will fear no ill.  
So with thy love and kindness surround me,  
Goodness and mercy bringing, from living water springing,  
Lord of love grant me thy comfort still.

## CONCLUDING PRAYERS

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

**Dear One,  
closer to us than our own hearts,  
farther from us than the most distant star,  
you are beyond naming.**

**May your powerful presence become obvious  
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,  
but also in the seemingly mundane processes of the earth.**

**Give us what we need, day by day,  
to keep body and soul together, because  
clever as you have made us,  
we still owe our existence to you.**

**We recognize that to be reconciled with you,  
we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings,  
putting hate and bitterness behind us.**

**We are torn between our faith in your goodness  
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,  
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.**

**Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.  
So it is. 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.**

"LOVING SHEPHERD" BY J.S. BACH

*This blessing is from the Book of Common Prayer.*

**BLESSING**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; 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.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

"SUCH PERFECT LOVE MY SHEPHERD SHOWS"



1 Such per - fect love my Shep - herd shows, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my lov - ing  
 3 When vain and fool - ish oft I strayed, you, faith - ful  
 4 I do not fear death's shad - owed vale when you are  
 5 You spread a ta - ble in my sight, your gifts of  
 6 And so through all the length of days your good - ness



1 fails me nev - er; whose hand all things I  
 2 Shep - herd leads me. And where the ver - dant  
 3 Shep - herd sought me, and on your shoul - der  
 4 here be - side me; your rod and staff and  
 5 grace be - stow - ing; And from your chal - ice  
 6 fails me nev - er: Good Shep - herd, may I



1 need be - stows and watch - es me for ev - er.  
 2 pas - tures grow with food from heav - en feeds me.  
 3 gent - ly laid, then home re - joic - ing brought me.  
 4 strength pre - vail to com - fort and to guide me.  
 5 I de - light to taste your mer - cy flow - ing.  
 6 sing your praise with - in your house for ev - er.

Alternative tune: *Dominus regit me*, 646.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. of Psalm 23  
 Music: *St. Columba*, Irish melody; harm. *Hymnal 1982*

♩ = 100  
87. 87

**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**

"LULLABY OF BIRDLAND" BY GEORGE SHEARING

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### **NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP DISCUSSION**

On **Tuesday evenings @7pm** starting **April 27**, Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke are facilitating a 6-week group discussion called "Not Your Grandma's Bible Study: Devised Scripture" in which we will devise Scripture collectively from the Old Testament. Each evening we will read a narrative from the Old Testament, explore its components, and then reconstruct the narrative with an awareness of its meaning for us today.

The theme for our reading and discussion on April 27, 2021 at 7pm will be "Unable to See God."

Click [here](#) for the zoom link for the discussion group on Tuesdays @7pm.

Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672

Passcode: trintalk

If you are interested in joining the discussion group or have questions about the group, please send an email to Jeffrey Tooke at [jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com](mailto:jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com) for more information.

### **MOTHER'S DAY DONATION DRIVE**

We will be collecting items for [Homespace](#) and [Journey's End](#) from Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9 through Sunday, May 16. The drive is hosted by the Bishop Holly Chapter, Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) in partnership with St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Trinity Church, St. John's-Grace Church, and St. Paul's Cathedral. You can participate in one of two ways:

(1) Purchase \$25 or \$50 gift cards from Save-A-Lot, TOPS, Walmart, or Target and mail them to UBE c/o St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill Ave, Buffalo, NY 14215.

OR

(2) Drop off your donation at one of the churches. Please call or email ahead to find out when the building will be open and how to drop off items safely. Items needed include \*NEW\* dishes, silverware, sheet sets, crayons, activity books, or other arts & craft supplies for children, hygiene items for men & women, hand sanitizers, and face masks.

St. Paul's Cathedral (716) 855-0990

St. Philip's Episcopal Church (716) 860-0406

St. John's-Grace (716) 855-1112

Trinity Episcopal Church email [parishadministrator@trinitybuffalo.org](mailto:parishadministrator@trinitybuffalo.org)

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

For more information, contact Gabriele'l Atchison at [gatchison@episcopalwny.org](mailto:gatchison@episcopalwny.org).

### **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 and [YouTube](#) 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.

**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.

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](#).

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE

**COMMISSION TO DISMANTLE RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION  
STATEMENT REGARDING VERDICT IN DEREK CHAUVIN CASE**

The Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination of the Episcopal Dioceses of Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania stand in solidarity with the family of George Floyd and all those who have suffered because of the sin of racism and oppression.

The Commission is committed to working with the Partnership (WNY/NWPA) and the community to dismantle the structures of systemic racism that have existed since the founding of this country. Silence is complicity.

We recognize the conviction of Derek Chauvin holds him accountable but that he is one person in a police culture that devalues and endangers black and brown lives. The Commission urges people of faith to speak out with the Episcopal Public Policy Network to support the **George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021**. God brought us to this moment. Let us follow his lead with love.

We encourage and support the clergy and laity as we continue to work toward fair and equitable treatment for all God's children.

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.”  
Micah 6:8



## STAFF

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Susana Bernhardt, Clerk  
John Alduino  
Erickson Contreras  
Judy Fitzgerald  
Edward Fries  
Karen Hall  
Jane Kearns  
Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick  
Tom Owen  
JoAnne Sundell

## CHOIR MEMBERS

Paul Cena, *Director*  
Laura Munson, *Section Leader*  
Betsy Curtis  
Cheryl Fisher  
Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick  
Christina Kinney  
Suzanne Fatta, *Section Leader*  
Susana Bernhardt  
Sue Doherty  
Mimi Dow  
Carol Case Siracuse  
John Clayton, *Section Leader*  
Peter Dow  
Dan Galley  
Steve Shanley  
Brandon Mecklenburg, *Section Leader*  
Peter Curtis  
Tom Owen

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

*Guest Officiant:* The Rev. Cathy Dempsey-Sims  
*Vocalists:* Laura Munson, Suzanne Fatta, John Clayton, Brandon Mecklenburg  
*Guest Musicians:* Bobby Militello, saxophone; Harry Fackelman, saxophone and flute  
*Readers:* John Fantini, Ansie Baird, Maria Geba

**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

