



An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
01.31.2021

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!

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.

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

"LAWNS" BY CARLA BLEY

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Fire of the Spirit,
Life of the lives of creatures,
glow of charity
light of clarity
taste of sweetness even in our failure,
speak to us and hear us this hour.
Composer of all things,
light of all the risen
door to freedom:
release from dark prison
the hope of all people, the joy in all glory,
and speak to us this hour.
Amen.**

*Cover image:
Untitled photo by
Blake Wheeler,
found on
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*The centering
prayer is based
upon a prayer by
12th century
mystic Hildegard
of Bingen.*

OPENING HYMN

"LORD, WE HAVE COME AT YOUR OWN INVITATION"



1. Lord we have come at your own in - vi - ta - tion,
 2. Here, at your ta - ble, con - firm our in - ten - tion
 3. When, at your ta - ble, each time of re - turn - ing,
 4. So, in the world where each du - ty as - signed us

cho - sen by you to be count - ed as friends:
 ev - er to cher - ish the gifts you pro - vide;
 vows are re - newed, and our cour - age re - stored:
 gives us the chance to cre - ate or de - stroy,

yours is the strength that sus - tains our vo - ca - tion,
 teach us to serve with - out pride or pre - ten - sion,
 may we in - crease - ing - ly glo - ry in learn - ing
 help us to make those de - ci - sions that bind us,

ours a com - mit - ment we know nev - er ends.
 led by your Spi - rit, de - fend - er and guide.
 all that it means to ac - cept you as Lord.
 Lord, to your - self, in o - be - dience and joy.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green

MUSIC: *Joyful Tune*
 by Jane Lincoln

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

The Lord your God, will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; to that prophet you must listen. It was this that you asked of Yahweh, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, "Let us not hear again the voice of our God, nor see this great fire again, or we will die." And God said to me, "This is well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their people, into whose mouth I will put my words, and that person will tell them all that I command. If any person will not listen to the words which my prophet speaks in my Name, I myself will call that person to answer for this. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my Name a message that I have not commanded to be spoken, or speaks in the name of other gods — that prophet will die."

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

Thanks be to God.

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

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.

Natasha Oladokun is a poet and essayist. She holds fellowships from Cave Canem, the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, and the Jackson Center for Creative Writing. Her work has appeared in the American Poetry Review, The Academy of American Poets, Harvard Review Online, Pleiades, and elsewhere. She is Associate Poetry Editor at storySouth, and was the inaugural First Wave Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from Fall 2018-Spring 2020.

MIDDLE READING

"BLACK CREDIT" BY NATASHA OLADOKUN

Lord—
 Your good daughter I have been
 my whole life.
 I've kept your house
 clean as sucked bone,
 starved myself of everything
 your other children have told me is sin.
 I've sharpened my teeth on the slate
 of your Word for your work's sake.
 Bridled the glint of my tongue
 so men will feel strong
 and not be seen trembling
 under the soft of it.
 I've behaved
 and for what
 do I hunger, myself growing slight
 on tomorrow's meat:
 words, words, your words
 as valued here as Black credit
 at an all-American bank.
 They say, Lord, piety is speaking to you,
 but madness is hearing you
 speak back. And under this,
 like all good jokes lies
 the truth: no one
 in this equation seems to be listening
 anyway. To you, to our own damned selves.
 Tell me
 how many Black girls
 does it take to change a mind,
 or a home or a block
 or a scale or a heart
 or a course or a country?
 You, Lord, as you have
 with your other minor prophets,
 have dragged—or is it called us
 up the mountain, where in the thin air
 there are those who got here
 long before I ever dreamed of it,
 still waiting on you
 to finally cash this check.

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

Thanks be to God.

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. An audio recording of the sermon is posted to the parish website each week, usually by Tuesday.

Like all summaries of historic and communal belief, this affirmation of faith is intended as a symbol of unity and continuity rather than a litmus test of one's individual commitment to a particular dogma.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 1:21-28

They came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach. The people were spellbound by the teaching, because Jesus taught with an authority that was unlike their religious scholars.

Suddenly a person with an unclean spirit appeared in their synagogue. It shrieked, "What do you want from us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked the spirit sharply: "Be quiet! Come out of that person!" At that the unclean spirit convulsed the possessed one violently, and with a loud shriek it came out. All who looked on were amazed. They began to ask one another, "What is this? A new teaching, and with such authority! This person even gives orders to unclean spirits and they obey!"

Immediately news of Jesus spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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.

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!

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 is from A New Zealand Prayer Book

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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Praise! Praise! Let every nation give praise to the Lord.
Rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all.
Let every nation give thanks to our God,
Resound joyful praise.
The glory and power of God we proclaim,
And sing with a loud voice the Lord's holy name.*

"PRAISE! PRAISE!" BY G.F. HANDEL

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

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

Eternal Spirit

**Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.
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


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.

CLOSING HYMN


"GOD, CREATOR, SOURCE OF HEALING"



1 God, cre - a - tor, source of heal - ing here we
 2 Je - sus, known to friend and seek - er ex - er -
 3 Ho - ly Spi - rit, bring us whole-ness, come with
 4 Tri - ni - ty of awe and won - der yours the



pray for whole-ness and health. Guide our work, our
 cis - ing heal - er's art, may the strong sup -
 your trans - form - ing love; give us free - dom,
 glo - ry, yours the praise. Strike our bind - ing



thoughts, and feel - ing, guide the shar - ing of our wealth.
 port the weak-er, show - ing love with head and heart;
 hope and bold-ness, raise our eyes to see from a - bove;
 chains a - sun - der, lib - er - ate our cramp - ing ways.



Give dis - cern - ment in our de - ci - sions give com -
 give fresh en - er - gy and pur - pose when un -
 shape our sys - tems, in - sti - tu - tions, clar - i -
 May our lives re - flect your splend-our, in a -



pas - sion in our care; rec - on - cile our
 rea - son - ing blocks your grace, spare us harm, in
 fy our blind - ed sight, as we seek God -
 bun - dance Lord we ask. God, our guide and



strife and di - vi - sions as we search for means to share.
 dan - ger a - lert us, show the ra - diance of your face.
 giv - en so - lu - tions, help us greet the just and right.
 our be - friend-er, give new mean - ing to our task.

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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

"ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME" ARRANGED BY LYNDELL LEATHERMAN

Trinity Vestry Voting

It's time to vote for our new Vestry members. You can do so now through Sunday morning, February 7. Everyone who considers themselves to be a member of Trinity is welcome to vote. This year we are electing one warden and three vestry members. Be sure to attend the annual (Zoom) meeting on February 7 @noon to learn what's been going on at Trinity. [Click here to vote.](#)



Wednesday, February 24, 7pm Trinity will host a Zoom appearance by Debby Irving, author of "Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race." Irving, who is white and was raised in upper middle class Massachusetts, writes plainly and clearly about her discoveries of how much she had benefited over the years because she was white and how she began to question her long-held assumptions about race and culture. Her book is eye opening, possibly life changing in its revelations about white privilege. We encourage you to read the book though it is not a requirement for her appearance. To register, click on [kindridgiving link](#).

We encourage you to purchase your book locally from [Talking Leaves](#). It is also available at the public library and at a number of online venues.

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](#).

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 Bing Sherrill, Treasurer
 Susana Bernhardt, Clerk
 John Alduino
 Joe Chamberlain
 Edward Fries
 Karen Hall
 Jane Kearns
 Christina Kinney
 Kayla Kisenwether
 Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick
 Tom Owen

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
 Tyler Mecklenburg, *Section Leader*
 Peter Curtis
 Tom Owen

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

<i>Vocalists:</i>	Laura Munson, Suzanne Fatta, John Clayton, Tyler Mecklenburg
<i>Guest Musician:</i>	Harry Fackelman, soprano saxophone
<i>Readers:</i>	Sally Cook, Margot Bennett Mitschow, Richard Rankin
<i>Cyber Sacristan:</i>	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

www.facebook.com/TrinityBuffalo

[https://www.youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKj)

[Instagram: @trinitychurchbuffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinitychurchbuffalo)

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

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