

An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music

First Sunday after Easter

04.11.2021

Cover image:
Trinity's window
based on the
painting by William
Holman Hunt known
as "Light of the
World," created by
W. Gibson's Sons of
London and NYC.

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

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.

PRELUDE

"I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES" ARRANGED BY RAYMOND H. HAAN

CENTERING PRAYER

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,

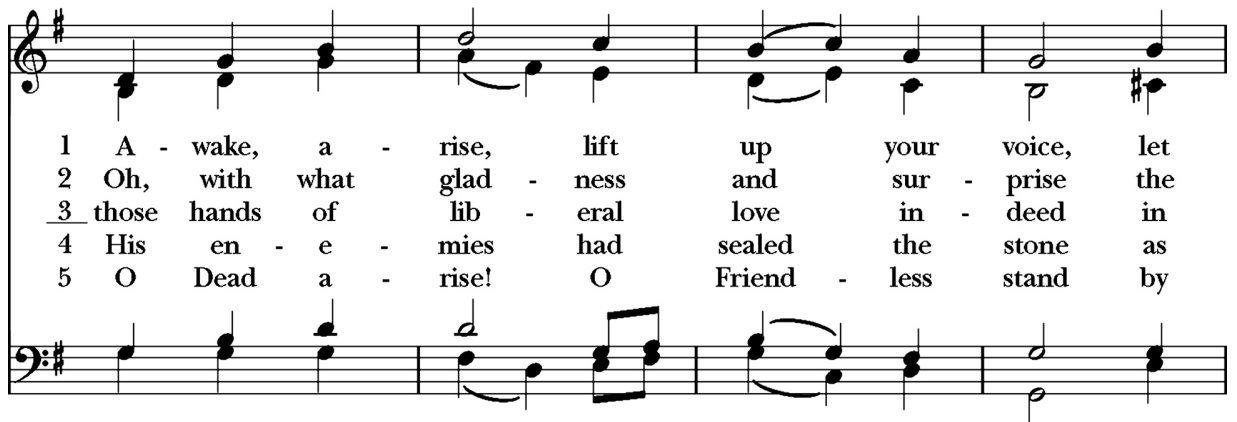
always blessing.

We wake to the forgiveness of this new day.

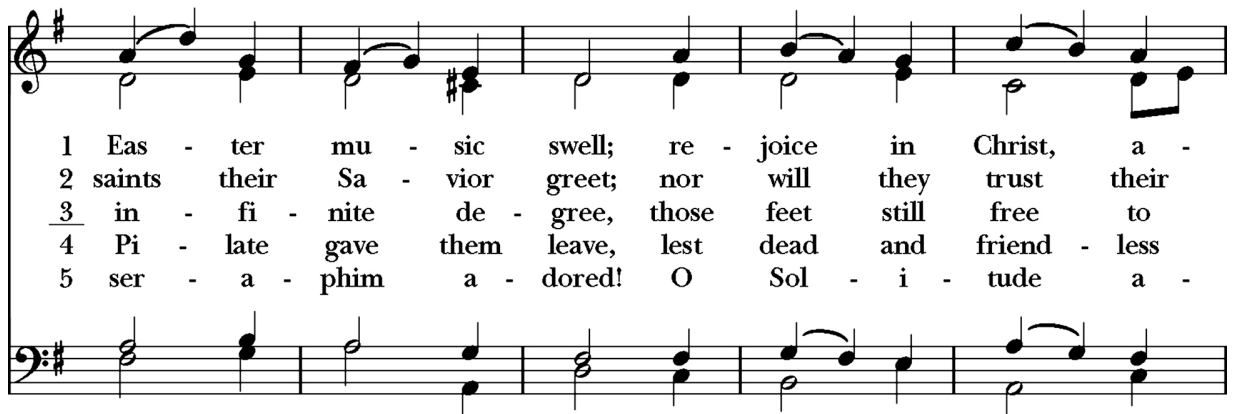
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"AWAKE, ARISE, LIFT UP YOUR VOICE"



1 A - wake, a - rise, lift up your voice, let
 2 Oh, with what glad - ness and sur - prise the
 3 those hands of lib - eral love in - deed in
 4 His en - e - mies had sealed the stone as
 5 O Dead a - rise! O Friend - less stand by



1 Eas - ter mu - sic swell; re - jice in Christ, a -
 2 saints their Sa - vior greet; nor will they trust their
 3 in - fi - nite de - gree, those feet still free to
 4 Pi - late gave them leave, lest dead and friend - less
 5 ser - a - phim a - dored! O Sol - i - tude a -



1 gain re - jice and on his prais - es dwell.
 2 ears and eyes but by his hands and feet,
 3 move and bleed for mil - lions and for me.
 4 and a - lone he should their skill de - ceive.
 5 gain com - mand your host from heaven re - stored!

Words: Christopher Smart (1772-1771), alt. Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816)

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

Thanks be to God.

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.

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.

Bronwyn Lea (b. 1969) Born in Tasmania, Lea grew up in Queensland Australia and Papua New Guinea, moving to San Diego to study at California State University. She completed a PhD titled "The way into stone; To dwell in possibility: Social roles of the poet" at University of Queensland. As of 2021 she is a full professor and head of the School of Communication and Arts at UQ.

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

"INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE" BY BRONWYN LEA

You have to start with insufficient knowledge,
yes, this, and yes, praise be, then this,
you have to have that kind of courage.

A breath, a step, a word: it's to your advantage
to begin. There isn't time to wait for grace—
you have to start with insufficient knowledge.

Think of the first human to sail over the edge
of the world, or a base jumper departing an edifice:
you have to have that kind of courage.

Break your fists, your back, your brain, punch
yourself an opening. This is all there is:
you have to start with insufficient knowledge

of the heart, that higher organ, which
from time to time catches us by surprise
and we startle with the kind of courage

that will spend it all, not hold back, wage
everything, all, right away, every time, yes.
You have to love with insufficient knowledge,
you have to have that kind of courage.

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

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!"

Thomas said in response, "My savior and my God!"

Jesus then said, "You've become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

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.

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.

HOMILY

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

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

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!

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.

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

GUEST SPEAKERS FROM JUSTICE FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES: CARRA STRATTON AND ESTHER OGUNMOLA

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"NOW I CAN SEE THE LIGHT" BY HENRY MOLLICONE

*O let my praise roll upward, O let my feet stand firm,
For I can't keep from shouting God's praises through all the earth.*

*Oh yes, I was so down, so weighted down by sorrow.
My heart was hard and heavy, I couldn't see the light;
I walked right through the flame, the sea waves crashed around me.
My heart was hard and heavy, I couldn't see the light.*

*Then I got down on my knees and I bowed my head in prayer,
And I asked God for mercy for I couldn't see the light;
And God showered me with love, and God showered me with mercy,
And God listened to my pleading and brought me to the light!*

*Praise God for I can breathe again! Praise God for I can see again!
Praise God for I can hear again! Now I can see the light! Praise God!*

*Let us sing Hosanna in excelsis! Let us sing Hosanna in excelsis!
Now I can see the light! Amen, sing amen!*

This version of the Lord's Prayer is what many of us grew up learning. It is also the version shared at the end of many 12 Step meetings. Although it is important to stay fresh and engaged by the words of our prayers, it is also important to be reminded that we as individuals are part of a great cloud of witnesses who have been inspired to turn to God in prayer throughout the ages.

**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).

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

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

**Our Father,* who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. 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 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

"WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT"

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
 fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound, to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt. Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979) Copyright © Oxford University Press.
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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

"SICILIENNE" BY BACH, ARRANGED BY KRISTA SEDDON

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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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 Kayla Kisenwether, Junior Warden
 Bing Sherrill, Treasurer
 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

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Vocalists: Laura Munson, Suzanne Fatta, John Clayton, Brandon Mecklenburg
Guest Musicians: Harry Fackelman, Bobby Militello, saxophones
Readers: Jeffrey Tooke, Sally Cook, Patti Nisbet

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

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

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