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.

Given the increase in rates of COVID, we ask that those attending in the chapel wear a mask. Thank you.

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

Ode to Enchanted Light
by Pablo Neruda

It hovers in dark corners
Under the trees light
has dropped from the top of the sky,
light
like a green
latticework of branches,
shining
on every leaf,
drifting down like clean white sand.

A cicada sends
its sawing song
high into the empty air.
The world is
a glass overflowing
with water.
The House of Belonging

by David Whyte

I awoke this morning in the gold light turning this way and that thinking for a moment it was one day like any other.

But the veil had gone from my darkened heart and I thought it must have been the quiet candlelight that filled my room, it must have been the first easy rhythm with which I breathed myself to sleep, it must have been the prayer I said speaking to the otherness of the night.

And I thought this is the good day you could meet your love, this is the black day someone close to you could die.

This is the day you realize how easily the thread is broken between this world and the next and I found myself sitting up in the quiet pathway of light, the tawny close grained cedar burning round me like fire and all the angels of this housely heaven ascending through the first roof of light the sun has made.

This is the bright home in which I live, this is where I ask my friends to come, this is where I want to love all the things it has taken me so long to learn to love.

This is the temple of my adult aloneness and I belong to that aloneness as I belong to my life.

There is no house like the house of belonging.

David Whyte (b. 1955) is quoted as saying that all of his poetry and philosophy is based on "the conversational nature of reality." He is a lecturer and business consultant as well as a poet, and lives in the Pacific Northwest.
interlude

Star Teachers
by Æ (George William Russell)

Even as a bird sprays many-coloured fires,
The plumes of paradise, the dying light
Rays through the fevered air in misty spires
That vanish in the heights.

These myriad eyes that look on me are mine;
Wandering beneath them I have found again
The ancient ample moment, the divine,
The God-root within men.

For this, for this the lights innumerable
As symbols shine that we the true light win:
For every star and every deep they fill
Are stars and deeps within.

interlude

How the Light Comes
by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.
What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.
That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.
That it loves
searching out
what is hidden
what is lost
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.
That it has a fondness
for the body
for finding its way
toward flesh
for tracing the edges
of form
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.
I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.
And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

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 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

Trinity @7 will NOT meet on Dec 26 or Jan 2.
Please join us in 2022 starting Jan 9.
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 14 @7pm**, we will look at some passages from 1 Peter to explore what our journey back to community looks like as being a journey to a new inheritance as citizens of a new homeland. You are invited to join Tim and Jeff on Tuesdays @7pm using this Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONG1NUUowZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONG1NUUowZz09) 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](#) by **December 19**. 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.

The church is open by appointment for private prayer or meditation. Contact our parish administrator, Colleen O’Neill, at coneill@trinitybuffalo.org to schedule an appointment.
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