



An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

08.23.2020

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.

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, that food really is spiritual, and there isn't a physical, sacramental aspect. Nevertheless, 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 image:
"Rock and Sky" by
Matt Lincoln, 2011*

PRELUDE

GEORGE CALDWELL, PIANO

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.

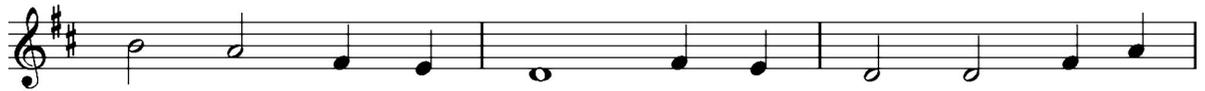
*This centering
prayer is by Matt
Lincoln, based on
a quotation from
Tirabassi & Grant,
An Improbable Gift
of Blessing*

OPENING HYMN

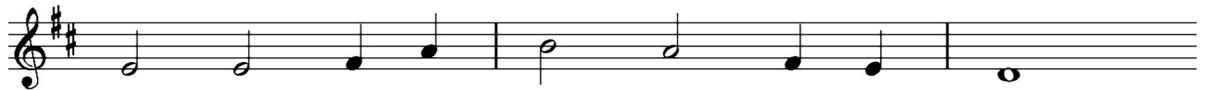
"COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt. Music: *Nettleton*, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. Gerre Hancock (b. 1934) Copyright ©1971 by Walton Music Corporation. International Copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

FIRST READING

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.

Listen closely to what I say,
 you who pursue justice,
 you who seek God,
 consider the rock from which you were hewn,
 the quarry from which you were cut:
 Look to Abraham, your father,
 and Sarah, your mother who bore you.
 They were but one couple when I called them,
 but I blessed them and made them many.
 Indeed, God will comfort Zion,
 will give comfort to all its ruins—
 will turn its desert into an Eden;
 its desert will be like the garden of God.
 Joy and happiness will be found there,
 thanksgiving and the sound of music.
 Hear me, my people!
 Listen to me, my nation!
 For Instruction' comes from me,
 and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.
 My vindication draws near,
 my deliverance approaches;
 my arm will bring justice to the people
 and the islands will put their hope in me.
 They will put their future in my hands.
 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
 then look to the earth below:
 for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
 the earth will wear out like a coat,
 and those who live on it will die like flies.
 But my liberation will last forever,
 my vindication will never fail.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

“BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD”

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
 that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Words: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), alt. Music: Nova Vita, Lister R. Peace (1885-1969)

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.

Middle reading author Alberto Rios (b. 1952) was born and raised in Nogales, Arizona. The Poetry Foundation notes that he "has won acclaim as a writer who uses language in lyrical and unexpected ways in both his poems and short stories, which reflect his Chicano heritage and contain elements of magical realism."

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.

MIDDLE READING

We plant seeds in the ground
and dreams in the sky,
Hoping that, someday, the roots of one
Will meet the upstretched limbs of the other.
It has not happened yet. Still,
Together, we nod unafraid of strangers.
Inside us, we know something about each other:
We are all members of the secret tribe of eyes
Looking upward,
Even as we stand on uncertain ground.
Up there, the dream is indifferent to time,
Impervious to borders, to fences, to reservations.
This sky is our greater home.
It is the place and the feeling we have in common.
This place requires no passport.
The sky will not be fenced.
Traveler, look up. Stay awhile.
Know that you always have a home here.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee, I will one will, to do or to endure.*

"WE ARE OF A TRIBE" BY ALBERTO RIOS

"BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD"

THE GOSPEL

When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: "What do people say about who the Chosen One is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "And you," he said, "who do you say that I am?" "You are the Messiah," Simon Peter answered, "the Firstborn of the Living God!" Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. I also tell you this: your name now is 'Rock,' and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

"Here—I'll give you the keys to the reign of heaven: whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, til I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.*

MATTHEW 16:13-20

"BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD"

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We have heard about you,
God of all power:
You made the world out of kindness,
creating order out of confusion;
you made each one of us
in your own image;
your fingerprint is on every soul.
So we praise you.**

**We have heard about you, Jesus Christ:
the carpenter who left his tools and trade;
the poor man who made others rich;
the healer who let himself be wounded;
the criminal on whom the soldiers spat
not knowing that yours was the face of God;
the savior who died and rose again.
So we praise you.**

**We have heard about you, Holy Spirit:
You broke the bonds of every race and nation,
to let God speak in every tongue;
you made the disciples drunk with grace;
you converted souls and offered a new kind of wealth;
you showed how love makes all things new
and opens the doors to change and freedom.
So we praise you.
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. Spend a moment gazing at it, receiving the light through your eyes, receiving God's assurance that you are loved, as are all the people who are in your prayers. Today's invitation to pray is a riff on the beatitudes by Marion Wright Edelman, adapted for liturgical use. Please say the words in bold type out loud, and as the Spirit moves you to pray, share your concerns and thanks in the comment section.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Blessed are the poor in spirit – **who do not measure themselves by money or worldly power but who ask God for what they need and are not mired in pride** – walk by our side as we seek the kingdom of God.

Amen.

This creed comes from the Iona Community, a spiritual community in Northern Scotland and is excerpted from their prayer book, A Wee Worship Book. 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. Participate at your own level of comfort.

Blessed are those who mourn – **who are concerned about the needs of children and the poor and others in need who cannot speak for themselves** – move us to be your comforters.

Amen.

Blessed are the meek – **who do not seek only their own good but their neighbors' too** – move us to be seekers who share in the gift of God's earth.

Amen.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness – **who do not work for the praise of others or earthly gain or fame and share gladly their talents, energy and money** – together may we be fulfilled.

Amen.

Blessed are the merciful – **who know they are sinners and are dependent on God's and others' forgiveness every minute of every day** — guide us as we seek your mercy.

Amen.

Blessed are the pure in heart – **who are not hypocrites but who struggle to live what they preach** – walk with us as we struggle to see the face of God.

Amen.

Blessed are the peacemakers – **who do not prepare for war while talking about peace, who do not kill others in order to stop killing, who do not love only those who love them but reach out to make their enemies friends** – may we more clearly see ourselves and ALL others as children of God.

Amen.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake – **who do not run or waver in the face of criticism, threats, or death** — may we have the courage to speak truth to power.

Amen.

Blessed are those who speak kindly and not meanly of others – **who do not tear down others but build them up for the kingdom's work and the well being of ALL** – may we be strengthened by God's Love.

Amen.

Blessed are the just – **who do not adhere to the letter of the law and regulations for some but ignore them for others** – Let us walk together in our struggle so that we may hear God's voice say "well done, good and faithful servant."

Amen.

THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

“WHEN CHRIST WAS LIFTED FROM THE EARTH”

1 When Christ was lifted from the earth, his
 2 Still east and west his love ex-tends and
 3 Where gen-er-a-tion, class, or race di-
 4 Thus free-ly loved, though ful-ly known, may

arms stretched out a-bove through ev-ery cul-ture,
 al-ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
 vide us to our shame, he sees not la-bels
 I in Christ be free to wel-come and ac-

ev-ery birth, to draw an an-swering love.
 as his friends and loves us as we are.
 but a face, a per-son, and a name.
 cept his own as Christ ac-cept-ed me.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b.1936) Copyright ©1980 by Hope Publishing Company. Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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.**

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!

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.

This version of the Lord's Prayer was written by Monica Furlong (1930-2003), a British author, journalist, and activist.

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Let us pray:

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.**

Continues on next page.

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).

CLOSING HYMN

"JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE"

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 God Tran - scend - ent, Spi - rit, Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) Copyright © reprinted with the permission of Charles Scribner's Sons. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

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!

Continues on next page.

DON'T FORGET YOUR CHICKEN!

Today from 4 to 5:30pm, you can pick up your chicken dinners that you prepaid. Please go to the main entrance of the church. Remember to wear a mask and keep six feet apart if you're chatting or waiting in line. Thank you for your support!

SUMMER SERVICES @TRINITY

In the interest of staying connected and sharing what we can of our spiritual life together, here's the plan for summer: **SUNDAY MORNING @10:30** Continue 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 Continue Zoom gatherings on Sunday night @7pm featuring poetry and jazz.

WEDNESDAY @NOON Continue Zoom gatherings offering prayer and holy conversation.

THURSDAY @7 Continue 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 this summer 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](#).

MONDAY @5 TO 7PM AND THURSDAY @NOON TO 2PM 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.



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)

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Judy Atkinson Miller, Junior Warden
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

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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
Nicholas Williams, *Section Leader*
Peter Curtis
Tom Owen

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Vocal Soloist: Nicholas Williams, bass
Readers: Karen Koeppel, Steve Shanley, Emily Carlin
Pianist: George Caldwell
Cyber Sacristan: Jeffrey Tooke
Music Mixologist: Jane Lincoln

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