

An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11.15.2020

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.

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

"SONATINA FOR WORSHIP, 2ND MOVEMENT" BY ROBERT W. JONES

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.

*The Centering
Prayer is by Matt
Lincoln, based on
a quotation from
Tirabassi & Grant,
An Improbable Gift
of Blessing.*

OPENING HYMN

"AWAKE, AWAKE TO LOVE AND WORK!"



A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the
 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of
 to give and give, and give a - gain, what God hath giv - en

sky, the fields are wet with dia - mond dew, the
 praise; see how the gi - ant sun soars up, great
 thee; to spend thy - self nor count the cost; to

worlds a - wake to cry their bles - sings on the
 lord of years and days! So let the love of
 serve right glo - rious - ly the God who gave all

Lord of life, as he goes meek - ly by.
 Je - sus come and set thy soul a - blaze,
 worlds that are, and all that are to be.

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.

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Music: *Morning Song*, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) All rights reserved. Used with permission.

FIRST READING

I THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

But as to specific times and eras, sisters and brothers, you don't need me to tell you anything. You know very well that the Day of God is coming like a thief in the night. Just when people are saying, "At last we have peace and security," then destruction will fall on them with the suddenness of labor pains, and there will be no escape. But you, sisters and brothers, are not in the dark. The Day of God will not catch you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to the darkness or the night. So let's not be asleep as others are. Let's be awake and sober! Those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. But we belong to the day, so let us be sober. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation. God has destined us not to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Savior Jesus Christ, who died for us so that, whether awake or asleep, we might live together with Christ. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

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

Thanks be to God.

*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.*

*Jan Richardson is
an artist, writer, and
ordained minister in
the United Methodist
Church. Residing
in Florida, she
serves as director
of The Wellspring
Studio, LLC, and has
traveled widely as
a retreat leader and
conference speaker.*

MIDDLE READING

"A BLESSING FOR TRAVELING IN THE DARK" BY JAN RICHARDSON

Go slow
if you can.
Slower.
More slowly still.
Friendly dark
or fearsome,
this is no place
to break your neck
by rushing,
by running,
by crashing into
what you cannot see.
Then again,
it is true:
different darks
have different tasks,
and if you
have arrived here unawares,
if you have come
in peril
or in pain,
this might be no place
you should dawdle.
I do not know
what these shadows
ask of you,
what they might hold
that means you good
or ill.
It is not for me
to reckon
whether you should linger
or you should leave.
But this is what
I can ask for you:
That in the darkness
there be a blessing.
That in the shadows
there be a welcome.
That in the night
you be encompassed
by the Love that knows
your name.

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.

This creed is from the Church of South India. Like all summaries of historic and communal belief, this 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

MATTHEW 25: 14-30

Jesus said, "Again, it's like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and the third one thousand, according to their abilities. Then the landowner went away. Immediately the worker who received the five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, 'You entrusted me with five thousand; here are five thousand more.' The landowner said, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!' The one who had received the two thousand then stepped forward with the additional two saying, 'You entrusted me with two thousand; here are two thousand more.' The landowner said, 'Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!'

Finally the one who had received the one thousand stepped forward and said to the landowner, 'Knowing your ruthlessness—you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter—and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.' The landowner exclaimed, 'You worthless, lazy lout! So you know that I reap where I don't sow and gather where I don't scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest! You, there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with the ten thousand. Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. Throw this worthless one outside into the darkness, where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.' "

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We affirm our faith in one God -

**Source of all life,
greater than all names and forms,
source of our being,
closer than any.**

**Upon this one God
we depend for all we are
and for all that ever will be.**

And we affirm our faith in Christ -

**Who has shown us the way to true Life
by breaking the chain of human bondage,
through his self-giving life and death
and by his rising again,
he has given us hope for a new humanity,
hope for the healing of earth's life.**

**And we affirm our faith in the living Spirit of God -
Through whom we awaken to God's purpose for the world,
and share in the freedom, joy and peace of the children of God.
For by his Spirit God's love has flooded our lives,
shaping us into a community of forgiven and freely accepted
brothers and sisters set apart for God's service,
and risen with Christ we share in his work for God's world
of everlasting life, justice and peace.
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. Below is a word cloud to spark your imagination as you pray. It will also appear on the Live Stream. Because we are not sitting next to each other in church, feel free to share your prayers in the comment section on the Live Stream if you wish.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.



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](#). 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, then the Prayer Book version, etc.

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

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Done with hatred and done with war;
Come lift the lonely, come lift up the poor.

Soon we will be done with the troubles of the world
When heaven comes to earth.
No more weepin' and wailin'
When heaven comes to earth.

Done! With the racism and sexism
And all the isms and prisons that bind us,
That blind us from the hurt of another.

I want to be done, with addiction,
With any affliction that takes a hold
And won't let go, and speaks in lies and fiction.

Yeah, I want to be done, with the things that divide us
Instead of unite us, like the walls that we build,
The hate instilled, we fill with judgement inside us.

I want to be done, done with the violence,
And the silence when facing injustice, but I wonder
If you'd trust us if love was our compass.

Soon! When we come together
When! We stand up for each other, we
Will! offer these hands and feet and
Be! Love, compassion and grace, come heaven to earth, oh, Thy will be
Done!

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.**

"SOON WE WILL BE DONE" BY KYLE PEDERSON

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

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.

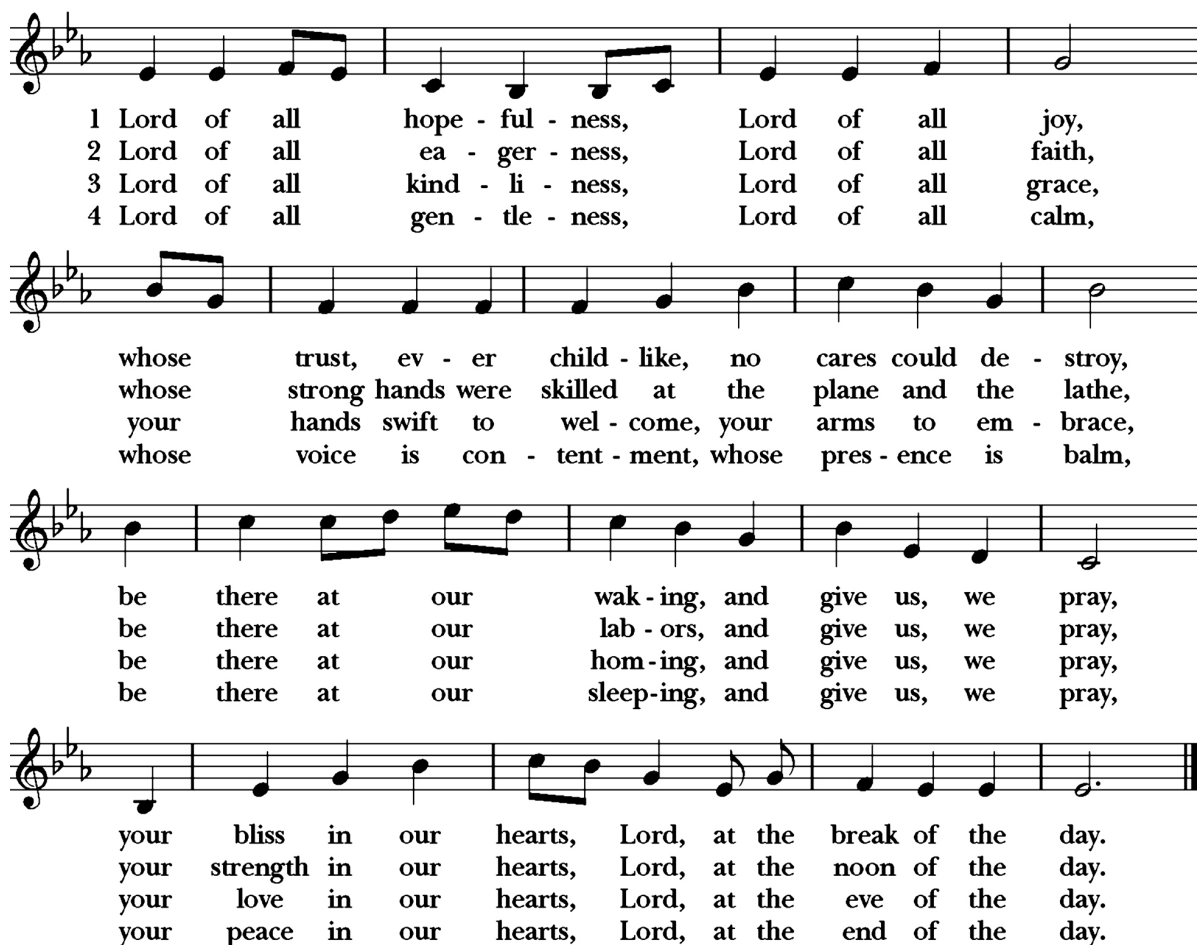
BLESSING

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

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 animated and guides us be with you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS"



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. *Hymnal 1982*

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

"ALONE TOGETHER" BY ARTHUR SCHWARTZ AND HOWARD DIETZ

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 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.

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](#).

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.

The **Everything Happens: Kate Bowler Podcast Discussion** group will gather again this **Tuesday, November 17, at 7pm**, facilitated by Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke.

Use this zoom link for the discussion group on Tuesdays at 7pm:

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVJZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONG1NUUowZz09>

Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672

Passcode: trintalk

This week's podcast: **NOVEMBER 17, 2020: Lanecia Rouse Tinsely: When Hope Seems Lost**

Podcast Link: <https://katebowler.com/podcasts/lanecia-rouse-tinsely-when-hope-seems-lost/>

Discussion questions: <https://katebowler.com/resources/discussion-questions-for-lanecia-rouse-when-hope-seems-lost/>

NOVEMBER 24, 2020: Bishop Curry: The Power of Ordinary Love

Podcast Link: <https://katebowler.com/podcasts/bishop-michael-curry-the-power-of-ordinary-love/>

If you are interested in joining the podcast discussion group or have questions about the group, please send an email to Jeffrey Tooke at jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com to receive more information.



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Trinity is an Episcopal Church in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania.

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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
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 Tom Owen

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 Betsy Curtis
 Cheryl Fisher
 Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick
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 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

Vocalists:	Laura Munson, Suzanne Fata, John Clayton, Tyler Mecklenburg
Guest Musician:	Harry Fackelman, saxophone
Readers:	Dan Galley, Carol Case Siracuse, Joanne Dunnigan
Cyber Sacristan:	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