



An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music

Fourth Sunday after Easter

05.02.2021

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!

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.

*Cover image:
Detail, Tiffany
window at Trinity*

PRELUDE

"'TIL THERE WAS YOU" BY MEREDITH WILLSON

CENTERING PRAYER

Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

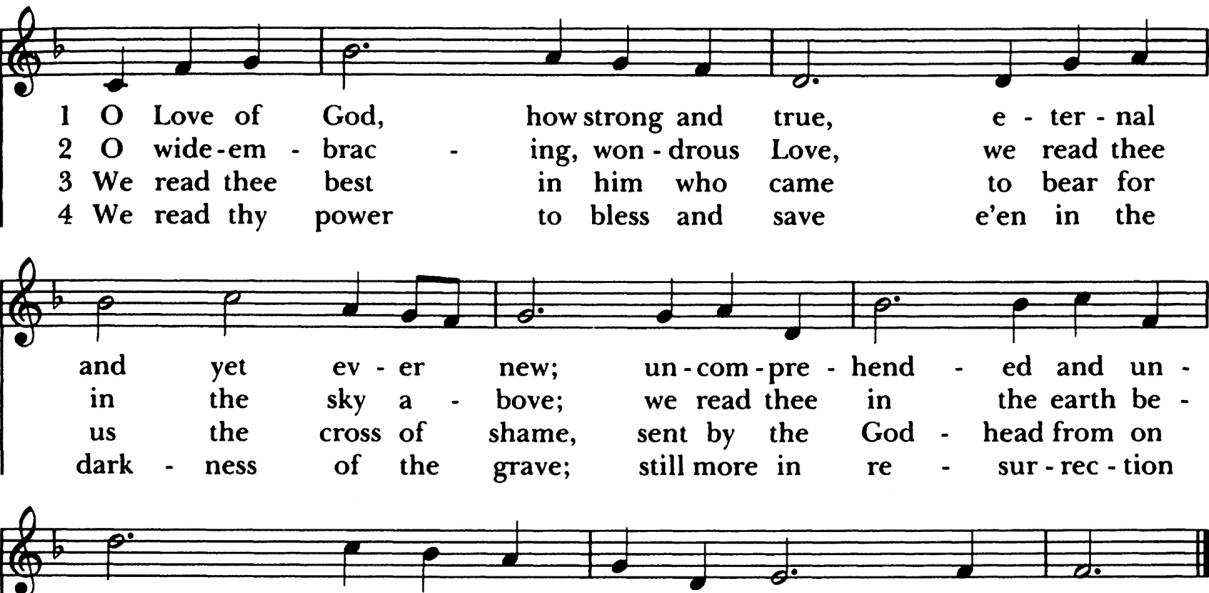
We wake to the forgiveness of this new day.

Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN

"O LOVE OF GOD, HOW STRONG, HOW TRUE"



1 O Love of God, how strong and true, e - ter - nal
 2 O wide-em - brac - ing, won - drous Love, we read thee
 3 We read thee best in him who came to bear for
 4 We read thy power to bless and save e'en in the

and yet ev - er new; un - com - pre - hend - ed and un -
 in the sky a - bove; we read thee in the earth be -
 us the cross of shame, sent by the God - head from on
 dark - ness of the grave; still more in re - sur - rec - tion

bought, be - yond all know-ledge and all thought.
 low, in seas that swell and streams that flow.
 high, our life to live, our death to die.
 light we read the full - ness of thy might.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)
 Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)

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 LM

FIRST READING

1 JOHN 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the Only Begotten into the world, that we might have faith through the Anointed One. Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us and has sent the Only Begotten to be an offering for our sins.

Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us. The way we know that we remain in God and God in us is that we have been given the Spirit. We have seen for ourselves and can testify that God has sent the Only Begotten as Savior of the world. When any acknowledge that Jesus is the Only Begotten, God dwells in them and they in God.

We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God in them.

Love will come to perfection in us when we can face the day of judgment without fear - because our relation to this world is just like Christ's. There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear. To fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love.

We love because God first loved us. If you say you love God but hate your sister or brother, you are a liar. Indeed, you cannot love God, whom you have not seen, if you hate your neighbor, whom you have seen. If we love God, we should love our sisters and brothers as well; we have this commandment from God.

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.

Mary Oliver (1935-2019) wrote verse that focused on the quiet occurrences of nature. In addition to such major awards as the Pulitzer and National Book Award, Oliver received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Much of Ms. Oliver's writing is based on her beloved Cape Cod where she lived for 40 years with her life partner, the photographer Molly Malone Cook.

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

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—
equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished.
The phoebe, the delphinium.
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,
telling them all, over and over, how it is
that we live forever.

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

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You've been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine; neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Those who do not live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples."

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE REV. CATHY DEMPSEY-SIMS

CANON TO THE ORDINARY, EPISCOPAL PARTNERSHIP OF NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA AND WESTERN NEW YORK

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

We are not alone, we live in God's Creation.

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 across our partnership: from Olcott to Olean, from Angola to Albion, from Erie to Edinboro, from Emporium to New Castle and a thousand other cities connected to our own.

Musical Response

This creed comes from the United Church of Canada. 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.

Continued on next page

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](#), or initiate an online donation by texting the word "give" to (716) 221-8580.

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.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"MY EYES FOR BEAUTY PINE" BY ROBERT BRIDGES/RICHARD SHEPHERD

*My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God's grace;
No other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face.*

*One splendor thence is shed from all the stars above;
'Tis named when God's name is said, tis love, tis heavenly love.*

*And every gentle heart, that burns with true desire
Is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.*

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

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

**Dear One,
closer to us than our own hearts,
farther from us than the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.**

**May your powerful presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the seemingly mundane processes of the earth.**

**Give us what we need, day by day,
to keep body and soul together, because
clever as you have made us,
we still owe our existence to you.**

**We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings,
putting hate and bitterness behind us.**

**We are torn between our faith in your goodness
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.**

**Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.
So it is. 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.

This version of the Lord's Prayer was written by the Rev. Jim Burklo in 2010. He is the Associate Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. An ordained United Church of Christ pastor, he is the author of several books.

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.

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

This blessing is from the Book of Common Prayer.

CLOSING HYMN

"LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING"



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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

"TRIO SONATA IN E FLAT" (1ST MVT. ALLEGRO) BY J.S. BACH

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NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP DISCUSSION

On **Tuesday evenings @7pm**, Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke are facilitating a 6-week group discussion called "Not Your Grandma's Bible Study: Devised Scripture" in which we will devise Scripture collectively from the Old Testament. Each evening we will read a narrative from the Old Testament, explore its components, and then reconstruct the narrative with an awareness of its meaning for us today.

The theme for our reading and discussion on May 4 @7pm will be "Running Away From God."

Click [here](#) for the zoom link for the discussion group on Tuesdays @7pm.

Meeting ID: 816-6863-4672

Passcode: trintalk

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

MOTHER'S DAY DONATION DRIVE

We will be collecting items for [Homespace](#) and [Journey's End](#) from Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9 through Sunday, May 16. The drive is hosted by the Bishop Holly Chapter, Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) in partnership with St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Trinity Church, St. John's-Grace Church, and St. Paul's Cathedral. You can participate in one of two ways:

(1) Purchase \$25 or \$50 gift cards from Save-A-Lot, TOPS, Walmart, or Target and mail them to UBE c/o St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill Ave, Buffalo, NY 14215.

OR

(2) Drop off your donation at one of the churches. Please call or email ahead to find out when the building will be open and how to drop off items safely. Items needed include *NEW* dishes, silverware, sheet sets, crayons, activity books, or other arts & craft supplies for children, hygiene items for men & women, hand sanitizers, and face masks.

St. Paul's Cathedral (716) 855-0990

St. Philip's Episcopal Church (716) 860-0406

St. John's-Grace (716) 855-1112

Trinity Episcopal Church email parishadministrator@trinitybuffalo.org

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

For more information, contact Gabriele'l Atchison at gatchison@episcopalwny.org.

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

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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

Guest Officiant: The Rev. Cathy Dempsey-Sims
Vocalists: Laura Munson, Suzanne Fatta, John Clayton, Brandon Mecklenburg
Guest Musician: Matt Harris, saxophone
Readers: Shirley Hudders, Bruce Nisbet, Melinda Franco

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/UCqj8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K)

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

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

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