



An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

07.12.2020

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.

PRELUDE

GEORGE CALDWELL, PIANO

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray out loud, together:

**God in the darkness, God beyond our knowing,
patient creator, seed in secret growing,
rock of the living water ever flowing
come and renew us.**

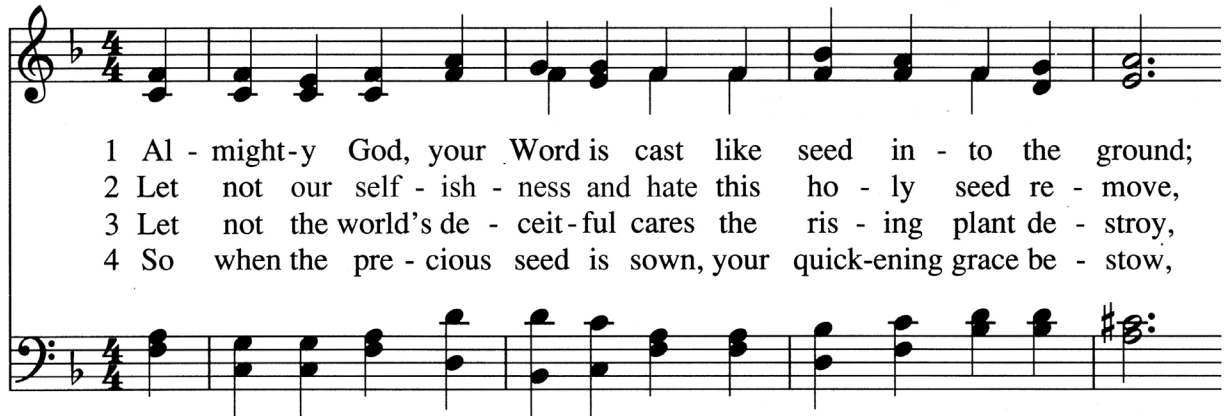
**God in the darkness, God in all our grieving,
friend of our tears, companion never leaving,
drawing us past the limits of believing:
come and renew us.**

**God in the darkness, God of holy dreaming,
giver of hope, and pledge of our redeeming,
Spirit of truth, our memory and meaning;
come and renew us.
Amen.**

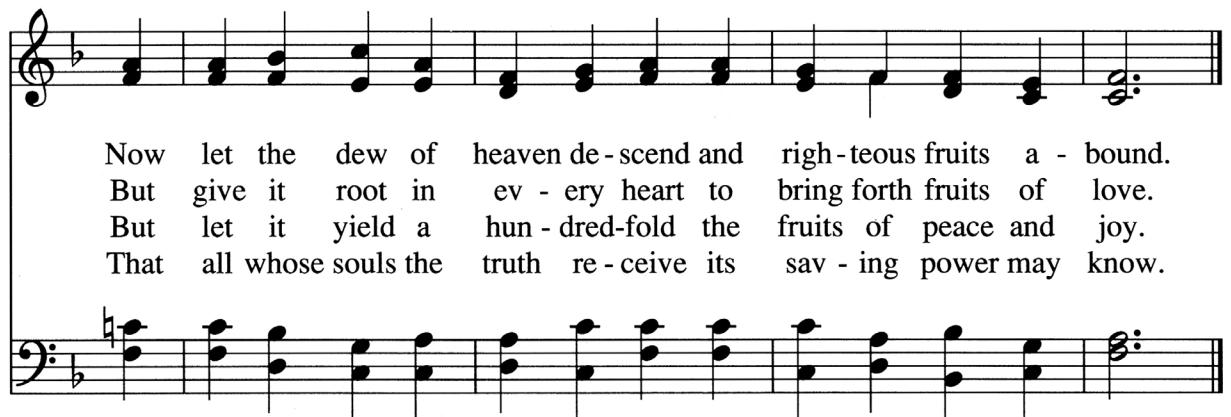
*This centering
prayer is by
Elizabeth J. Smith.*

OPENING HYMN

"ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST"



1 Al - might-y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
 2 Let not our self - ish - ness and hate this ho - ly seed re - move,
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit-ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, your quick-ening grace be - stow,



Now let the dew of heaven de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
 But give it root in ev - ery heart to bring forth fruits of love.
 But let it yield a hun - dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.
 That all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing power may know.

The parable of the sower from Matthew's Gospel was the basis for this hymn. Growing up on a small farm, John Cawood, a priest of the Church of England, surely had a special understanding of this parable.

*John Cawood, 1815; alt.
 Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
 Day, The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562*

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 55:10-13

*The Bible readings
 are taken from
 The Inclusive Bible:
 The First Egalitarian
 Translation by
 Priests for Equality.*

Just as from the heavens
 the rain and snow come down
 and do not return there
 until they have watered the earth,
 making it fertile and fruitful,
 giving seed to the sower and bread for food,
 so will my word be
 that goes forth from my mouth:
 it will not return to me empty,
 but will carry out my will,
 achieving the end for which I sent it.
 And you will go out joyfully,
 and be led out in peace;
 the mountains and hills before you
 will break into cries of joy,
 and all the trees in the countryside
 will clap their hands.

The cypress will grow in place of the thorn bush,
the myrtle will replace the briars;
and they will stand as a memorial to God,
an everlasting sign never to be destroyed.

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 Edward Estlin "E. E." Cummings, often styled as e e cummings, was an American poet, painter, essayist, author, and playwright. He wrote approximately 2,900 poems, two autobiographical novels, four plays, and several essays.

MIDDLE READING

"I THANK YOU GOD FOR MOST THIS AMAZING" BY E. E. CUMMINGS

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

ECHO

"BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD"

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

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.

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 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.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:1-9,18-23

Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake shore. Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables: "One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it landed on good soil, and yielded a crop thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!

"Now listen to the parable of the sower. When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding it, the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path. Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first welcome it with joy. But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away. Those who receive the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and the message produces no fruit. But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop that yields a hundred, or sixty, or thirty times what was sown."

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

SERMON

THE VERY REV. CATHY DEMPSEY-SIMS, CANON TO THE ORDINARY

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

El Salvador Creed

**We believe in God,
who created us free
and walks with us as we walk
with others in their struggle
for liberation.**

**We believe in Christ,
crucified again in the suffering
of all humankind,
a suffering which calls out to the conscience
of people and nations,
a suffering which ends in resurrection.**

This creed is modified and adapted for our use from one said at Christ the Savior Church in San Salvador, El Salvador. Christ the Savior Church was destroyed twice by army troops during the country's civil war and this Affirmation of Faith was written and shared by the people of the congregation in the face of that persecution. It is hoped that in voicing this affirmation we are not only engaging in an act of historic and contemporary solidarity with the universal Christian community, we are also being challenged to contemplate what our own core affirmations may be.

**We believe in the power of the Spirit,
capable of inspiring the same compassion
which has led many
of our brothers and sisters to sacrifice health,
wellness, livelihood and life itself
on behalf of others.**

**We believe in the Church,
called forth by Jesus and by the Holy Spirit.
We believe that when two or three of us gather,
God is in the midst of us.**

**We believe in the Christian community
where we proclaim our core values
and through which we practice our faith.**

**We believe in creating and sustaining a Church
where we pray and reflect on the true circumstance
of our lives, and share the prophetic,
priestly and pastoral mission of Jesus.
In this way we make the dominion of God
present on earth.**

**We believe in unity in the midst of differences.
We believe that Christ calls us to communion
and to live as sisters and brothers.
We believe that through the marginalized
and persecuted Christ is calling us to work
for justice and peace and that their cause is our cause.
We believe that Christ is also present
in those who are enslaved by their vices,
squander their power and money,
and commit acts of injustice and violence.
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. Also, join the responsive prayer below to remind you of the concerns and events you want to share with God. These words come from the Episcopal Church's ongoing work of revising the prayer book.

At this time, please add your prayers to the comments section on Facebook.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: For all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world. God of love,
Hear our prayers for the church.

Silence — Feel free to add your prayers to the comment section.

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, and unite the human family in bonds of love. God of freedom,
Hear our prayers for the world.

Silence — Feel free to add your prayers to the comment section.

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation which you entrusted to our care. Move us to protect the earth and all its resources, that we may leave the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us. God of justice,
Hear our prayers for the earth.

Silence — Feel free to add your prayers to the comment section.

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders and our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Help us to be instruments of peace, beginning here at home. God of peace,
Hear our prayers for this community.

Silence — Feel free to add your prayers to the comment section.

God of mercy, we pray for all in any need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and the whole human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons. God of mercy,
Hear our prayers for all who are in need.

Silence — Feel free to add your prayers to the comment section.

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Inspire us to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light. God of grace,
Hear our prayers for those who have died.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM"

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;

The first system of musical notation is for the song "Take, O Take Me As I Am". It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in 4/4 time and featuring a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics "Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;" are written below the treble staff.

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The second system of musical notation continues the song. It also consists of a treble and a bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics "set your seal up - on my heart and live in me." are written below the treble staff.

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

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 for a week or two, etc.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

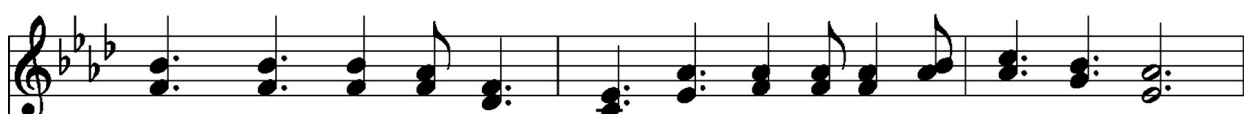
"WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE"



1. What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine,
2. O how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way,
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,



1. Lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; What a bless - ed - ness,
2. Lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; O how bright the path
3. Lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; I have bless - ed peace



1. what a peace is mine, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
2. grows from day to day, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
3. with my Lord so near, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms;



Lean - ing, lean - ing, Lean-ing on the ev-er - last-ing arms.

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.

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).

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Let us pray:

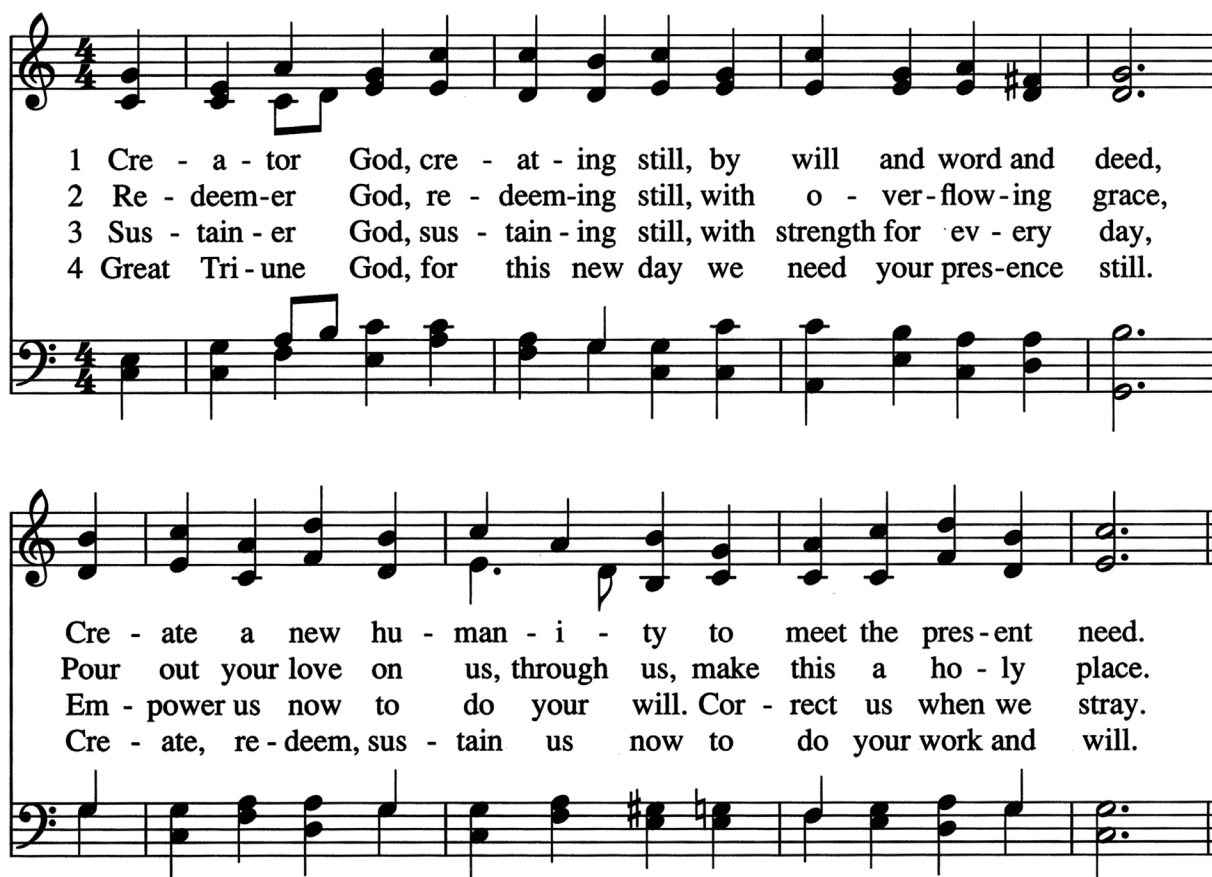
Gracious God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may 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 animated and guides us be with you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"CREATOR GOD, CREATING STILL"



1 Cre - a - tor God, cre - at - ing still, by will and word and deed,
2 Re - deem-er God, re - deem-ing still, with o - ver-flow-ing grace,
3 Sus - tain - er God, sus - tain - ing still, with strength for ev - ery day,
4 Great Tri - une God, for this new day we need your pres-ence still.

Cre - ate a new hu - man - i - ty to meet the pres-ent need.
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a ho - ly place.
Em - power us now to do your will. Cor - rect us when we stray.
Cre - ate, re - deem, sus - tain us now to do your work and will.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

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!

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 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.

MONDAY @5 TO 7PM The church will be open for private prayer or meditation. Please wear a mask. You are required to sign a registry at the entrance to be used in the event contact tracing is necessary.

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

THURSDAY @NOON TO 2PM The church will be open for private prayer or meditation. Please wear a mask. You are required to sign a registry at the entrance to be used in the event contact tracing is necessary.

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](#).

So long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Adieu

Our own Tim Lane, whom we have watched grow up, is leaving soon for a new career as a teacher in Fredericksburg, VA. We can't let him go without a proper, albeit socially distant, good-bye.

Trinity will have an **Open Courtyard on Sunday, July 19, from 4 to 6 pm**. Stop by anytime between those hours to wish Tim well on this next part of his life. We will be abiding by diocesan social distancing guidelines, so sorry, there will be no refreshments. If you'd like to bring your own drink, please do so. Please wear your mask. The focus is to let Tim know how much his Trinity family cares for him.



www.facebook.com/TrinityBuffalo
[Instagram: @trinity.church.buffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinity.church.buffalo)
[Twitter: @trinitybuffalo1](https://www.twitter.com/trinitybuffalo1)

www.trinitybuffalo.org • (716) 852-8314

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

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 Bing Sherrill, Treasurer
 Susana Bernhardt, Clerk
 John Alduino
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 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: Oscar Barry, Jen Barbee Earnhart, Alphonso O'Neil-White
 Guest musician: George Caldwell, piano
 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