



An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music

First Sunday in Lent

02.21.2021

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!

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.

*Cover image:
"Quiet Wood" by
Matt Lincoln, 2020*

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

"PRELUDE, FUGUE & VARIATION" BY CESÀR FRANCK

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife:

Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length:

Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part:

Such a Heart, as joys in love.

Amen.

*The centering prayer
is a poem written
by George Herbert
(1593 – 1633).*

OPENING HYMN

"THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS"



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
 *5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt. Copyright © by permission Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Erhalt uns, Herr*; melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 9:8-17

God then said to Noah and his family, "I hereby establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you—birds, cattle, and the earth's wildlife—everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I hereby establish my covenant with you: All flesh will never again be swept away by the waters of the flood; never again will a flood destroy all the earth."

God said, "Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generations; I set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, my bow will appear in the clouds. Then I will remember the covenant that is between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. Whenever my bow appears in the clouds, I will see it, and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all living things on the earth."

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.

James Weldon Johnson, (1871-1938) was an American writer and civil rights activist. Read more at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Weldon_Johnson

**diapason: the principal foundation stop in the organ extending through the complete range of the instrument.*

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

“DEEP IN THE QUIET WOOD” BY JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Are you bowed down in heart?
Do you but hear the clashing discords and the din of life?
Then come away, come to the peaceful wood,
Here bathe your soul in silence. Listen! Now,
From out the palpitating solitude
Do you not catch, yet faint, elusive strains?
They are above, around, within you, everywhere.
Silently listen! Clear, and still more clear, they come.
They bubble up in rippling notes, and swell in singing tones.
Now let your soul run the whole gamut of the wondrous scale
Until, responsive to the tonic chord,
It touches the diapason* of God's grand cathedral organ,
Filling earth for you with heavenly peace
And holy harmonies.

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

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 1:9-15

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests."

Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Gallilee proclaiming the Good News of God: "This is the fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE REV. TERRENCE TAYLOR
RECTOR, CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, MIAMI GARDENS, FL

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Like all summaries of historic and communal belief, this affirmation of faith is intended as a symbol of unity and continuity rather than a litmus test of one's individual commitment to a particular dogma.

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: 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. Today's invitation to pray for each other, the church and the world was written by the rector, based on words and music from the Iona Community. Please join in singing out loud on the refrains, following the melody line given by Krista Seddon on piano. Share your own prayers in the Comment section.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

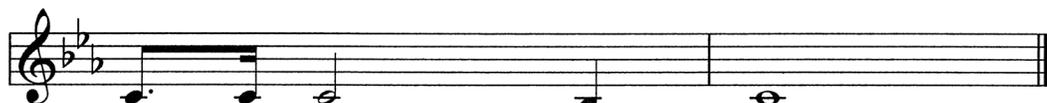
Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Christ took five loaves and two fish,
blessed and broke them, and fed a crowd.
No one understood, but all were included.

Christ rubbed mud on the eyes of someone who was blind.
No one understood, but the person began to see.



With God, all things are poss - i - ble; all things are



poss - i - ble with God.

Contributor: John
Bell
Text: ©1987, GIA/
Iona Community /
WGRG

Continued on next page

Upon waking in the middle of a storm,
Christ told the wind and waves to be quiet.
No one understood, but all became calm again.

Christ could outwit the high and mighty,
but when it came to showing
who was greatest in the eyes of God,
Christ took a child in his lap.

Refrain, twice

We look at people around us, and even in the mirror,
and see how fear and pride divide our communities.

We see how greed and the turning of a blind eye
degrade the natural world
and leave vulnerable people destitute.

We worry about loved ones facing illness or danger.
We worry about those who struggle to make ends meet.

We grieve the loss of those we loved but see no longer,
wondering how we will get through tomorrow.

Refrain, twice

We marvel at the raw power and beauty mixed together in a winter sky.

We are grateful for everything that sustains us.

We thrill at the creativity of the human spirit, and we are warmed by the kindness and understanding
we receive from each other.

We seek wisdom and compassion to guide us in our common life,
and hope for the courage to build a more just society.

Refrain, twice

Christ offered freedom to people who had become trapped by the cruelty of others, and even to
people who had become trapped by their own bad choices.

Christ begged to be spared the cross, yet found the strength to go willingly and showed that even in
death, all things are possible with God.

Refrain, twice

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!

This version of the Lord's Prayer is by Quaker author Parker Palmer.

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.

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).

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.

O God you are my God whom I seek;
For you my flesh pines, and my soul thirsts
Like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
To see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life;
My lips shall glorify you.

"PSALM 63: MY SOUL IS THIRSTING" BY RAWN HARBOR

Thus will I bless you while I live;
Lifting up my hands I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
And with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

You are my help,
And in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
Your right hand upholds me.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

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

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.
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

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.

CLOSING HYMN

"GIVE ME A CLEAN HEART"

Give me a clean heart so I may serve

Thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by

thee. For I'm not worthy of all these bless

ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow thee.

1. I'm not asking for the riches of the land.
 (2. Some-times) I am up and some-times I am down.

1. I'm not asking for the proud to know my
 2. Some-times I am almost level to the

1. name. Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that
 2. ground. Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that

1. I may follow thee. Give me a clean heart, a
 2. I may follow thee. Give me a clean heart, a

1. clean heart, and I will follow thee.
 2. Some-times clean heart, and I will follow thee.

2.

DISMISSAL

Take your leave, trusting that we are made one in Christ, to shine in the world with God's light.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"THIS TIME THE DREAM'S ON ME" BY HAROLD ARLEN & JOHNNY MERCER

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Make Me An Instrument of Peace: A Group Discussion on Civil Discourse

On Tuesday evenings @7pm during Lent, Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke will facilitate **Make Me An Instrument of Peace: A Group Discussion on Civil Discourse**. Designed by the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations, *Make Me An Instrument of Peace* is a group discussion study designed to help us bridge the divides that keep us from moving forward. During our evening gatherings, the group will watch video material taught by a team of experts in civil discourse and then discuss the subject matter as a group.

This **Tuesday, February 23, @7pm** Tim and Jeff will facilitate the session regarding **Civil Discourse in Context** in which we will explore the importance of context within civil discourse as a way to have unbiased discussions related to public policy, ways in which civil discourse prepares us to respond to differences of opinion with grace instead of aggression or defensiveness, and how our baptismal covenant forms the basis for practicing civil discourse through our promise to respect the dignity of every human being.

An introduction to the Make Me An Instrument of Peace material can be viewed [here](#).

Download the participant's guide [here](#).

Use this zoom link for the discussion group on Tuesday @7pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTVjZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONGlNUUowZz09>

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 to receive more information.



Wednesday, February 24, 7pm Trinity will host a Zoom appearance by Debby Irving, author of "Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race." Irving, who is white and was raised in upper middle class Massachusetts, writes plainly and clearly about her discoveries of how much she had benefited over the years because she was white and how she began to question her long-held assumptions about race and culture. Her book is eye opening, possibly life changing in its revelations about white privilege. We encourage you to read the book though it is not a requirement for her appearance. To register, click on [kindridgiving link](#).

We encourage you to purchase your book locally from [Talking Leaves](#). It is also available at the public library and at a number of online venues.

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

CHOIR MEMBERS

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

Tyler Mecklenburg, *Section Leader*

Peter Curtis

Tom Owen

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TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Vocalists:

Laura Munson, Suzanne Fatta, John Clayton, Brandon Mecklenburg

Guest Musician:

Harry Fackelman, saxophone

Readers:

Alma Brown, Susan Ramsey, Christian Eschelman

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

