

## **An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music**

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

09.27.2020

# 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

"NARDIS" BY MILES DAVIS—KRISTA SEDDON, PIANO

## CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray out loud, together:

**I give thanks for arriving  
Safely in a new dawn,  
For the gift of eyes  
To see the world,  
The gift of mind  
To feel at home  
In my life,  
The waves of possibility  
Breaking on the shore of dawn,  
The harvest of the past  
That awaits my hunger,  
And all the furtherings  
This new day will bring.  
Amen.**

*Cover image:  
Stock image used  
with permission.*

*The Centering  
Prayer is the poem  
"On Waking" by  
John O'Donohue.*

## OPENING HYMN

"FROM THEE ALL SKILL AND SCIENCE FLOW"



1 From thee all skill and sci - ence flow, all pi - ty, care, and love,  
2 And has-ten, Lord, that per - fect day when pain and death shall cease,  
all calm and cour-age, faith and hope: O pour them from a - bove!  
and thy just rule shall fill the earth with health and light and peace;  
Im - part them, Lord, to each and all, as each and all shall need,  
when ev - er - blue the sky shall gleam, and ev - er - green the sod,  
to rise, like in - cense, each to thee, in no - ble thought and deed.  
and our rude work de - face no more the hand - i - work of God.

Words: Charles Kingsley (1819 - 1875) Music: *Kingsford*, English folk melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## FIRST READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

If our life in Christ means anything to you—if love, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness or sympathy can persuade you at all—then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own. Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Christ, though in the image of God,  
didn't deem equality with God  
something to be clung to—  
but instead became completely empty  
and took on the image of oppressed humankind:  
born into the human condition,  
found in the likeness of a human being.  
Jesus was thus humbled—

obediently accepting death, even death on a cross!  
Because of this, God highly exalted Christ and gave to Jesus the name above every other name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend  
in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God:

Therefore, my dear friends, you who are always obedient to my urging, work out your salvation with fear and trembling, not only when I happen to be with you, but all the more now that I'm absent. It is God at work in you that creates the desire to do God's will.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## ECHO

"WE CANNOT OWN THE SUNLIT SKY"



1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers  
grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -  
in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -  
ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that  
all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.

*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 Maya Angelou (1928-2014) was a writer and civil rights activist, and also an actor, screenwriter, and dancer. Her most popular work may be her autobiography, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.*

## MIDDLE READING

"WHEN GREAT TREES FALL" BY MAYA ANGELOU

When great trees fall,  
rocks on distant hills shudder,  
lions hunker down  
in tall grasses,  
and even elephants  
lumber after safety.  
When great trees fall  
in forests,  
small things recoil into silence,  
their senses  
eroded beyond fear.  
When great souls die,  
the air around us becomes  
light, rare, sterile.  
We breathe, briefly.  
Our eyes, briefly,  
see with  
a hurtful clarity.

*Continued on next page*

Our memory, suddenly sharpened,  
examines,  
gnaws on kind words  
unsaid,  
promised walks  
never taken.  
Great souls die and  
our reality, bound to  
them, takes leave of us.  
Our souls,  
dependent upon their  
nurture,  
now shrink, wizened.  
Our minds, formed  
and informed by their  
radiance,  
fall away.  
We are not so much maddened  
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance  
of dark, cold  
caves.  
And when great souls die,  
after a period peace blooms,  
slowly and always  
irregularly. Spaces fill  
with a kind of  
soothing electric vibration.  
Our senses, restored, never  
to be the same, whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed.  
We can be. Be and be  
better. For they existed.

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

**Thanks be to God.**



## ECHO

"WE CANNOT OWN THE SUNLIT SKY"



2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for  
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and  
war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -  
ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that  
all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.

*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 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 GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:23-32

Jesus entered the Temple precincts and began teaching. The chief priests and the elders of the people came to him and said, "By what authority are you doing what you do? Who gave you this authority?"

"And I," replied Jesus, "will ask you a single question; if you give me the answer, I will tell you my authority for these actions. What was the origin of John's right to baptize? Was it divine or was it human?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'divine,' he will respond, 'Then why did you refuse to believe him?' But if we say 'human,' we have the people to fear, for they regard John as a prophet." So they replied to Jesus, "We don't know."

Jesus said in reply, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things." Jesus continued, "What do you think? There was a landowner who had two children. The landowner approached the elder and said, 'My child, go out and work in the vineyard today.' This first child replied, 'No, I won't,' but afterwards regretted it and went. The landowner then came to the second child and said the same thing. The second child said in reply, 'I'm on my way,' but never went. Which of the two did what was wanted?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "The truth is, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came walking on the road of justice, you didn't believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you didn't repent and believe."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## ECHO

"WE CANNOT OWN THE SUNLIT SKY"



3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

## SERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

NEW ZEALAND (MAORI) CREED

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who loved and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

*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 following creed is from A New Zealand Prayer Book and is a contemporary and vernacular expression of the historic faith described in The Nicene Creed (see the red Book of Common Prayer, page 358). 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.*

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship 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 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 Olcott to Olean, from Angola to Albion, and a thousand other cities connected to our own.

*Musical Response*

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 also for all 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*



*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 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.*

*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).*

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**

**"COME BY HERE" BY KYLE PEDERSON**

*Come by here, my Lord, come by here. O Lord, come by here.*

*Someone's praying Lord, come by here.*

*Someone's crying Lord, come by here.*

*In the morning Lord, in the evening Lord*

*In my waking Lord, in my sleeping Lord*

*In my pleading Lord you are here.*

*In my loving, here in my hoping, grieving*

*Waiting, caring, blessing you are here.*

*In my longing, falling, hiding, rising*

*Healing, aching, laughing, praising*

*Seeking, finding, breathing, dying*

*Lord, you are here.*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYERS**

**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.**

### **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,**

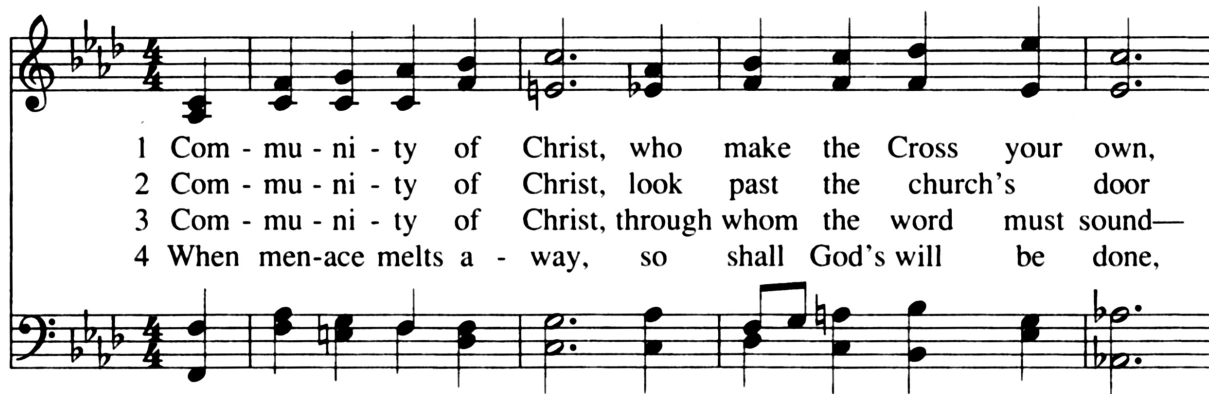
**and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

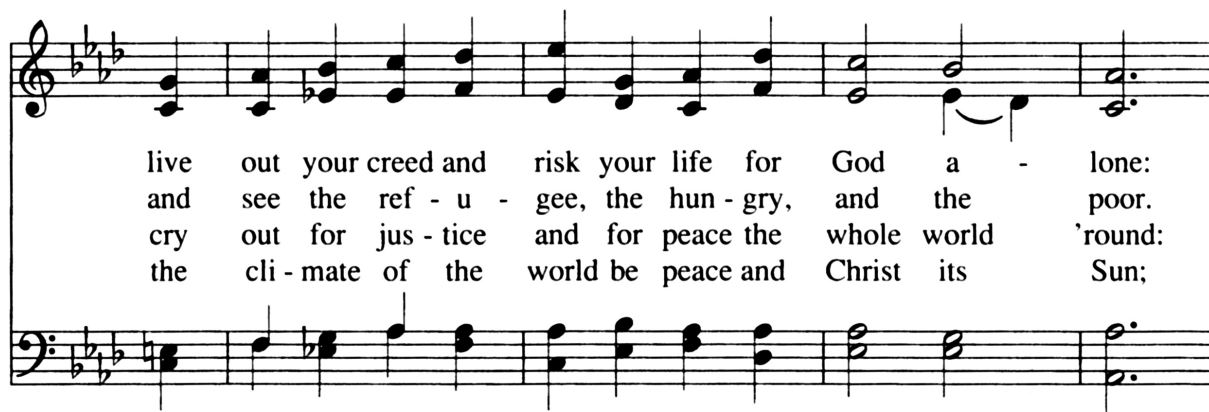
Life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who animates and guides us be with you now and always. **Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN

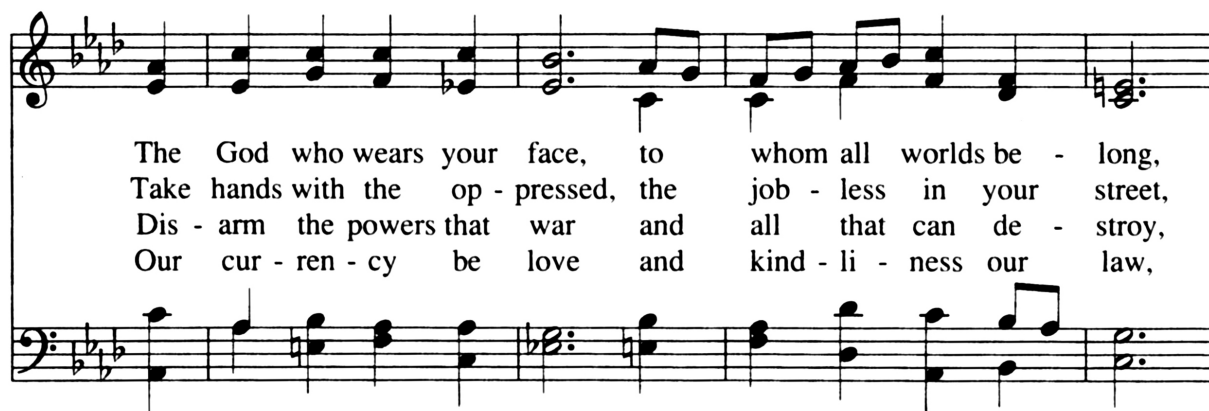
"COMMUNITY OF CHRIST"



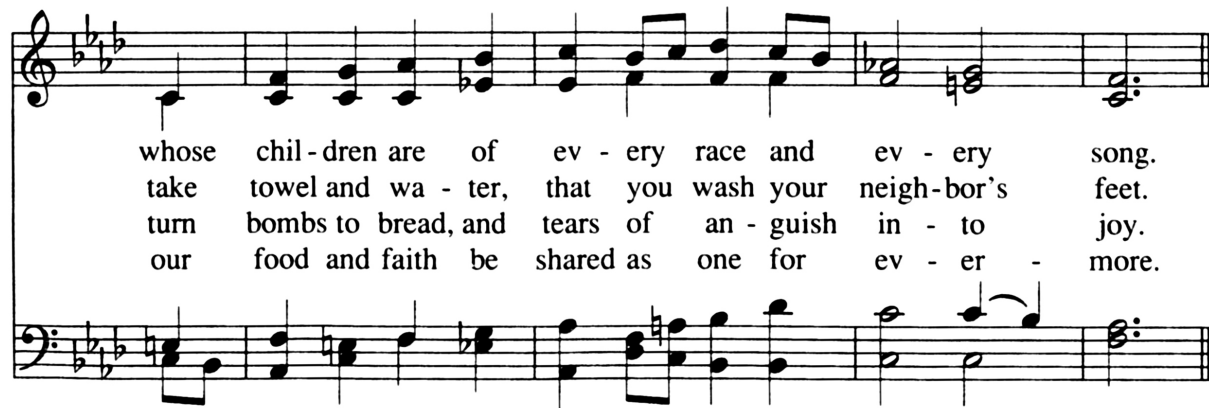
1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,  
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door  
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—  
 4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,



live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:  
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.  
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:  
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;



The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,  
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,  
 Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,  
 Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,



whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.  
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.  
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.  
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

## 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

"PRELUDE, FUGUE & CHACONNE IN C" BY D. BUXTEHUDE—PAUL CENA, ORGAN

### **Oct 4, Blessing of the Animals on the feast of St. Francis**

Come in person to the courtyard or get Zoom blessed! We know you love your pets. They've helped sustain so many of us during this pandemic, and more people have pets as a result of the pandemic and the need for companionship. If you prefer the safety of your home, there will be blessing **during the 10:30am service on Zoom**. Also, Matt will do two outdoor blessings at **2pm and 4pm**. Please wear a mask and practice physical distancing. Tell your friends and neighbors their pets are welcome, too!

### **Oct 11, Chicken Barbecue**

Take a break from cooking and help Trinity Church in two easy clicks. Menu is 1/2 chicken with two sides and roll with butter. Prepay only--\$15. Pick-up at church from 4:00 to 5:30 on Oct 11. Order by Oct 7.

See <https://www.kindridgiving.com/App/Form/cldfe7fc-2179-4896-a9cb-1a764238be9a>

## **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](#).

**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.



[www.facebook.com/TrinityBuffalo](http://www.facebook.com/TrinityBuffalo)

[Instagram: @trinity.church.buffalo](https://www.instagram.com/trinity.church.buffalo)

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

[www.trinitybuffalo.org](http://www.trinitybuffalo.org) • (716) 852-8314

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

## STAFF

**The Reverend Matthew R. Lincoln, Rector**  
mlincoln@trinitybuffalo.org  
(716) 852-8314 ext. 14

**Krista Seddon, Director of Ensembles; Pianist**  
krista@kristaseddon.com  
www.kristaseddon.com

**Paul Cena, Organist and Choir Director**  
prcena@verizon.net

**Colleen O'Neill, Parish Administrator and Director of Children's Ministries**  
coneill@trinitybuffalo.org  
(716) 852-8314 ext. 10

**Margaux Charlier, Child Care Worker**

**Jennifer Frey, Office Volunteer**  
clerical@trinitybuffalo.org  
(716) 852-8314 ext. 19

**Rich Mpelezos, Facility Manager**  
rmpelezos@trinitybuffalo.org  
(716) 852-8314 ext. 24

**Jay Mpelezos, Caretaker**  
jmpelezos@trinitybuffalo.org

**Sarah Caputi, Caretaker**  
scaputi@trinitybuffalo.org

**Meghan Arnold, Caretaker**  
marnold@trinitybuffalo.org

**Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner**

## VESTRY

Teresa Maciocha, Senior Warden  
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

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

## TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

*Vocalists:* Laura Munson, Suzanne Fata, John Clayton, Tyler Mecklenburg  
*Guest Musician:* Harry Fackelman, Saxophone  
*Readers:* David Devereux, Andrew Hashey, Barbara Hall-Griesmann  
*Cyber Sacristan:* Jeffrey Tooke  
*Recording Engineer:* John Hasselback, III

**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