

An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music Fourth Sunday in Lent 03.14.2021

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.

Cover image: "Lifted Up" by Matt Lincoln, 2013 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

Amen.

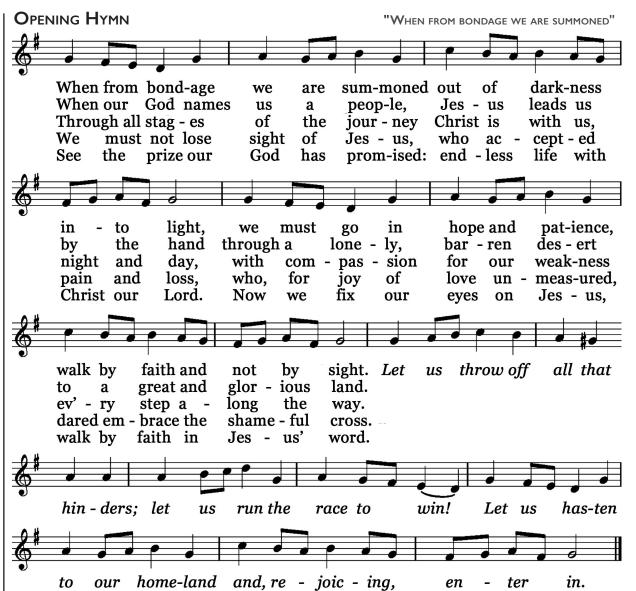
"FORTY DAYS" BY DAVE BRUBECK

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

It is in the depths of life that we find you at the heart of this moment at the centre of our soul deep in the earth and its eternal stirrings. You are the Ground of all being the Well-Spring of time Womb of the earth the Seed-Force of stars. And so at the opening of this day we wait not for blessings from afar but for You the very Soil of our soul the early Freshness of morning the first Breath of day.

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



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

Numbers 21:4-9

he Israelites traveled from Mount Hor along the road to the Sea of Reeds in order to avoid Edom. But the people grew impatient along the way, and they addressed their concerns to God and Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? We have no bread! We have no water! And we are disgusted with this terrible food!"

Then God sent venomous snakes among the people. They fatally bit many of the people. So the people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against God and against you. Intercede for us, and ask that God remove the snakes from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. And God said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it on the end of a pole. Anyone who is bitten and looks at it will live. So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Then whenever the people were bitten by a snake, they looked at the bronze snake and lived.

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

Thanks be to God.

MIDDLE READING "COAL" BY AUDRE LORDE

Is the total black, being spoken
From the earth's inside.
There are many kinds of open.
How a diamond comes into a knot of flame
How a sound comes into a word, coloured
By who pays what for speaking.

Audre Lorde (1934 – 1992) was an American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian, and civil rights activist.

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.

poets for this

reading.

Most often, we turn to contemporary

Some words are open
Like a diamond on glass windows
Singing out within the crash of passing sun
Then there are words like stapled wagers
In a perforated book—buy and sign and tear apart—
And come whatever wills all chances
The stub remains
An ill-pulled tooth with a ragged edge.
Some words live in my throat
Breeding like adders. Others know sun
Seeking like gypsies over my tongue
To explode through my lips
Like young sparrows bursting from shell.
Some words

Love is a word another kind of open— As a diamond comes into a knot of flame I am black because I come from the earth's inside Take my word for jewel in your open light.

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

Thanks be to God.

Bedevil me.

THE GOSPEL JOHN 3:14-21

esus said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life. Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life.

"God sent the Only Begotten One into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved. Whoever believes in the Only Begotten avoids judgment, but whoever doesn't believe is judged already for not believing in the name of the Only Begotten of God. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light came into the world, people showed they preferred darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. Indeed, people who do wrong hate the light and avoid it, for fear their actions will be exposed; but people who live by the truth come out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what they do is done in God."

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

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.

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 is a poem by Ted Loder. 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.

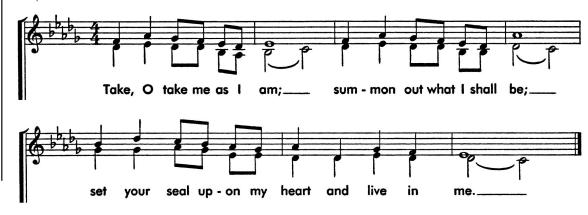
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Lord, grant me your peace, for I have made peace with what does not give peace and I am afraid.

Refrain, twice



Tune and text ©1995, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Drive me deep, now, to face myself so I may see that what I truly need to fear is my capacity to deceive and willingness to be deceived, my loving of things and using of people, my struggle for power and shrinking of soul, my addiction to comfort and sedation of conscience, my readiness to criticize and reluctance to create, my clamor for privilege and silence at injustice, my seeking for security and forsaking the kingdom.

Refrain, twice

Lord, grant me your peace.
Instill in me such fear of you
as will begin to make me wise,
and such quiet courage
as will enable me to begin to make
hope visible,
forgiving delightful,
loving contagious,
faith liberating,
peace-making joyful
and myself open and present
to other people
and your kingdom.

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 Åve.,

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, and so on

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "MAYA'S PRAYER FOR PEACE" WORDS BY MAYA ANGELOU, MUSIC BY TOM TRENNEY

Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days. For then we have you to lean on. Thank you.

Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days, For then we can share that which we have with those who have less.

Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the holy days, For then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends.

For those who have no voice, we ask you to speak. For those who feel unworthy, we ask you to pour out your love In waterfalls of tenderness.

For those who live in pain, we ask you to bathe them in your river of healing. For those who are lonely, we ask you to keep them company. For those who are depressed, we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope!

Father, Mother, God, you, the borderless sea of substance, We ask you to give all the world that which we need the most: peace.

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:

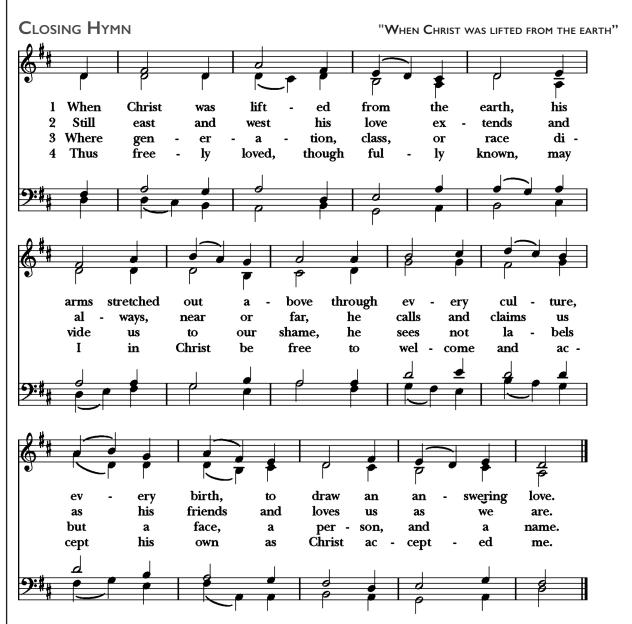
Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

Amen.

BLESSING

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 animates and guides us, be with you now and always.

Amen.



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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 "THE PROUD TOWER" (BASED ON A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD) BY MATTHIAS NAGEL

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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 are facilitating **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, March 16 @7pm** Tim and Jeff will facilitate the session regarding **The Complexities of Policy** in which we will explore compromise and advocacy to examine how to balance realistic politics with principled stances on important issues, discuss looking for common ground with people we disagree with to see most questions of partisan politics as centering on the question of which good goals to prioritize rather than as good vs. evil scenarios, understand the complicating factor in debating matters of policy in which public policy can sometimes have unintended effects on communities, and look at how to approach policy-making using civil discourse methodology.

Download the participant's guide here.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81668634672?pwd=eTV|ZXFoNzVYdHZvSHZONG1NUUowZz09

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 <u>jeffrey@bayharboradvisors.com</u> to receive more information.



MOVED TO WRITE

Want to free up your creativity? Make the connection of body, mind, and spirit? Join in on **Monday, March 15** @ **6:30pm** or **Saturday, March 20** @ **Ipm** for a 60 to 90-minute session on Zoom. Starting with gentle, yoga-like movement to stimulate and relax (hmmm, sounds like a paradox), next is a creative writing session. Only requirements are curiosity and a Zoom account. The class will be taught by Kathy Shoemaker, a certified yoga teacher of many years. She has taught children and adults as well as persons with special needs in Western New York, Long Island, and Massachusetts. Class is free. Send an email to <u>Teresa</u>, Zoom host, asking for the Zoom link in either timeslot.

THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE SPRING, TRA LA!

It's time to Easter up the place, your place that is. Trinity will not have an in-person service this year, but we can celebrate Easter at home, and what says Easter better than flowers? We'll be taking orders for 6-inch potted flowers beginning next week.

Order by March 22.

Pick up at church on **April 3** from noon to 3pm

Lilies with 5-6 blooms per pot: \$10

Tulips: \$8 Daffodils: \$7

Hydrangea (8" pot): \$20



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.

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



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Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner

VESTRY

Judy Atkinson-Miller, Senior Warden Kayla Kisenwether, Junior Warden Bing Sherrill, Treasurer Susana Bernhardt, Clerk Iohn Alduino Erickson Contreras Judy Fitzgerald **Edward Fries** Karen Hall lane Kearns Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick Tom Owen IoAnne 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

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Vocalists: Laura Munson, Suzanne Fatta, John Clayton, Brandon Mecklenburg

Guest Musician: Bobby Militello, saxophone

Readers: John Fantini, Ursie Bankhead, Gretchen Brand

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