



An Offering of Reflection, Prayer, and Music

Fifth Sunday after Easter

05.09.2021

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, Akron Falls,
by Matt Lincoln,
2021*

PRELUDE

"SONATA VI (OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN) CHORALE & VARIATIONS I AND 2" BY F. MENDELSSOHN

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.

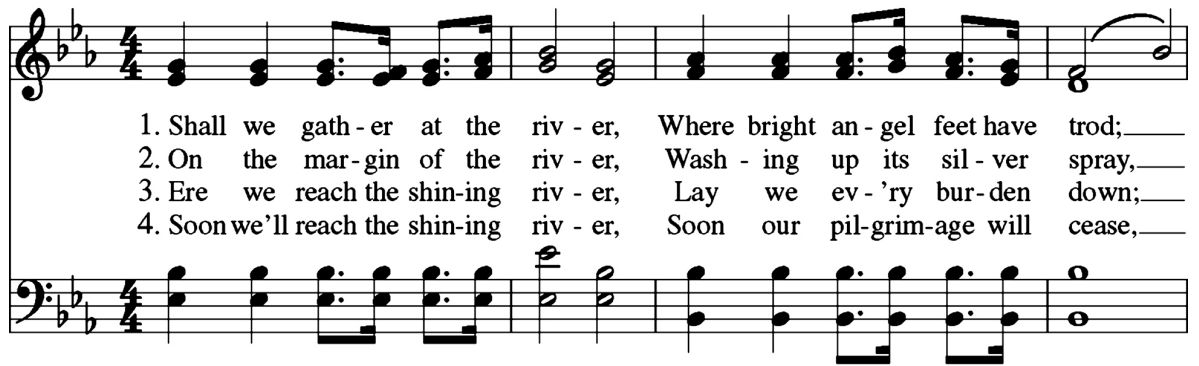
We wake to the forgiveness of this new day.

Amen.

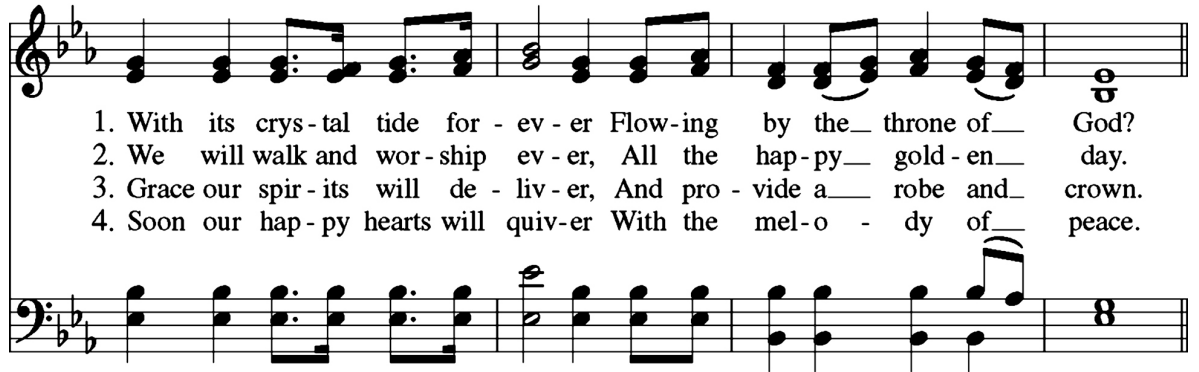
*The centering prayer
is a poem written by
John Philip Newell
and can be found in
his book, Praying
With The Earth.*

OPENING HYMN

"SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER"



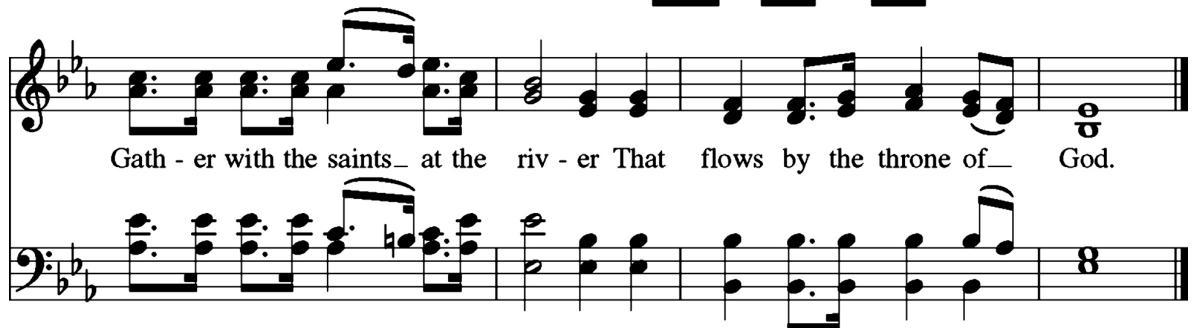
1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod;____
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray;____
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;____
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease;____



1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
 2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
 3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
 4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of 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.

FIRST READING

ACTS 10:44-48

Peter had not finished speaking these words when the Holy Spirit descended upon all who were listening to the message. The Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were surprised that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also, whom they could hear speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter asked, "What can stop these people who have received the Holy Spirit, even as we have, from being baptized with water?" So he gave orders that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. After this was done, they asked him to stay on with them for a few days.

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.

Denise Levertov (1923 – 1997) was English born and emigrated to the US in 1947. Here she published more than 20 volumes of poetry. In the 1960s, Levertov was active in the anti-war movement in the United States. Additionally, she worked as a poetry editor the The Nation in the '60s and for Mother Jones in the '70s.

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

Don't say, don't say there is no water
to solace the dryness at our hearts.
I have seen

the fountain springing out of the rock wall
and you drinking there. And I too
before your eyes

found footholds and climbed
to drink the cool water.

The woman of that place, shading her eyes,
frowned as she watched—but not because
she grudged the water,

only because she was waiting
to see we drank our fill and were
refreshed.

Don't say, don't say there is no water.
That fountain is there among its scalloped
green and gray stones,

it is still there and always there
with its quiet song and strange power
to spring in us,
up and out through the rock.

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

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 15:9-17

As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love. And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments. I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. And you are my friends, if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from Abba God. It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so whatever you ask of Abba God in my name God will give you. This command I give you: that you love one another.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE REV. MATT LINCOLN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

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

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"ADORAMUS TE, NO. 2" BY ANTONIO LOTTI

*Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi,
Quia per sanctam Crucem et passionem tuam redemisti mundum.*

Translation:

*We adore you, O Christ, and thank you,
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

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

1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22

"IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST"

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 In Christ is nei-ther Jew nor Greek, and nei-ther slave nor free;
4 Join hands, di-ci-ples of the faith, what e'er your race may be!

But one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
God's ser-vice is the gold-en cord close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
Who serves our God as God's own child is sure-ly kin to me.
And build through-out the whole wide earth one true com-mun-i-ty.

Singer and composer Harry T. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1896. He is recognized as the first African-American composer to employ spirituals in concert arrangements. This tune is named after the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh served as baritone soloist for more than fifty years.

Tune: McKEE C.M.
African-American melody
Arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939
Alternate setting: ST. PETER

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

"ON GREEN DOLPHIN STREET" BY BRONISŁAW KAPER

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NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP DISCUSSION

On **Tuesday evenings @7pm**, Tim Lane and Jeffrey Tooke are facilitating a 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 11 @7pm will be "Wrestling with God" during which we will focus on Genesis 32:1-32.

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](#) **TODAY** 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 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

CHOIR MEMBERS

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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

Vocalists: Laura Munson, Suzanne Fatta, John Clayton, Brandon Mecklenburg
Guest Musician: Bobby Militello and Harry Fackelman, saxophone
Readers: Marcia O'Neil-White, Don Ingalls, Linda Wagner

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/UC...)

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

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