

A Service of Holy Communion

January 15, 2023

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Baptism of Our Lord

Welcome to Trinity's gathered community!

We are together on-site and online!

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. If you are at Trinity in person, know that this congregation supports anyone who wears a mask to reduce risk of infection. Please feel free to receive communion and participate in the service as fully as you want. **If you are watching the Facebook Live Stream, you may add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time! If you are on-site, you can use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshippers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down! WiFi internet access is publicly available. Use the "Trinity Open" network with the password "Welcome!"**

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. This communal worship service is many things, including an offering of your prayers. You may light a candle on one of the candle walls at any time during worship as a tangible way to make that prayer offering, or if you are online, request a candle lighting in the comments, and someone on-site will light a candle on your behalf. If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued.

Children, with all their sounds and movements, are a welcome part of the gathering for worship. It is perfectly appropriate to keep your kids with you in the pew. If your baby or toddler would be happier being able to crawl around and play in the care of our fully vaccinated nursery attendant, the nursery is also available. You can find the nursery by going through the door near the baptismal font in the front right corner of the church. **Additionally, there is now a Kids' Corner in the back-right corner of the pews. It is an enclosed and safe space for small children (attended by their parents) to play quietly on the floor while staying in church. Please note that there is a changing table located in the nursery. Additionally, there is a room in the back left corner of the church that has a rocking chair where you can attend to your child.**

Name tags are not required, but they sure help! You'll find sticky tags and markers on a table in the red carpet area near the entrance.

If you would like to receive more information about Trinity Church, please sign our guest book, located near the entrance. Everyone is welcome to enjoy refreshments and conversation after worship. Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church in the Diocesan Partnership of Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania, and is a part of the Anglican Communion, which is based in England, but found worldwide.

*Cover image:
"His Eye Is On The
Sparrow" by Matt
Lincoln, 2017*

PRELUDE

“MAYA’S PRAYER FOR PEACE” BY TOM TRENNY

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

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Dear God,

We struggle, we grow weary, we grow tired.

We are exhausted, we are distressed, we despair.

We give up, we fall down, we let go.

We cry. We are empty, we grow calm, we are ready

We wait quietly.

A small, shy truth arrives.

Arrives from without and within us.

Arrives and is born. Simple, steady, clear.

Like a mirror, like a bell, like a flame, like rain in summer

A precious truth arrives and is born within us. Within our emptiness.

We accept it, we observe it, we absorb it.

We surrender to our bare truth.

We are nourished, we are changed.

We are blessed. We rise up.

For this we give thanks. **Amen.**

*This centering
prayer was
written by
Michael Leunig.*

*In spirit or in body,
the congregation
stands to sing
hymns.*

OPENING HYMN

"His eye is on the sparrow"



1. Why should I feel dis - cour - aged, — Why should the shad - ows come, —
2. "Let not your heart be trou - bled," — His ten - der word I hear, —
3. When ev - er I am tempt - ed, — When ev - er clouds a - rise, —



1. Why should my heart be lone - ly, — And long for heav'n and home; — When
2. And rest - ing on His good - ness, — I lose my doubts and fears; — Though
3. When songs give place to sigh - ing, — When hope with - in me dies, — I



1. Je - sus is — my por - tion? — My con - stant friend — is He: — His
2. by the path — He lead - eth, — But one step I — may see; — His
3. draw the clos - er to Him, — From care He sets — me free; — His



eye is on — the spar - row, — And I know He watch - es me; — His



eye is on the spar - row, — and I know He watch - es me. — I



sing be - cause I'm hap - py, — I sing be - cause I'm free; — For His



eye is on the spar - row, — And I know He watch - es me. —

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.

Words: Civilla D. Martin (1860-1948). Music: Charles H. Gabriel (1836-1932); arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arr. Copyright © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer.

FIRST READING

ROMANS 12: 1-5 (IN REFERENCE TO MLK'S 'CREATIVE NONCONFORMIST' SERMON)

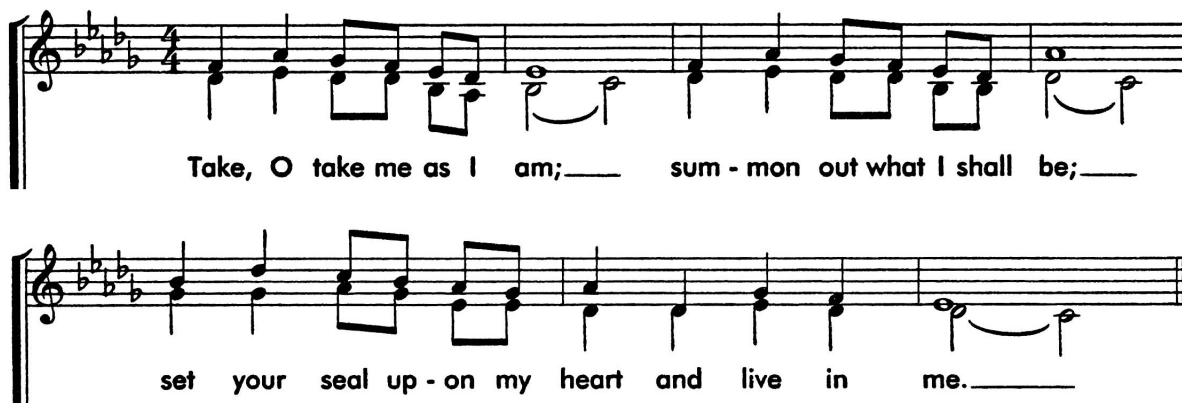
Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing, and perfect. In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

"Take, O take"



MIDDLE READING

"THE AVOWAL" BY DENISE LEVERTOV

As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall, and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

see above

"Take, O take"

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

*Contributors: Iona Community
Tune: © 1995, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: © 1995, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent*

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 for The Nation in the '60s and for Mother Jones in the '70s.

It is customary (but not required) to stand for the Gospel reading because it symbolizes the mystical presence of Christ.

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. A recording of the sermon is posted to the parish website each week, usually by Tuesday.

In spirit or in body, please stand.

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. Participate at your own level of comfort.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 3:13-17

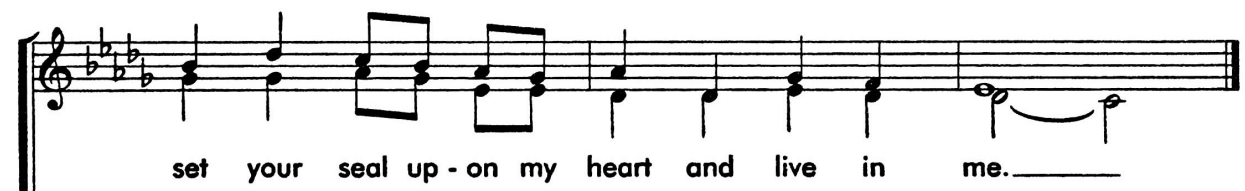
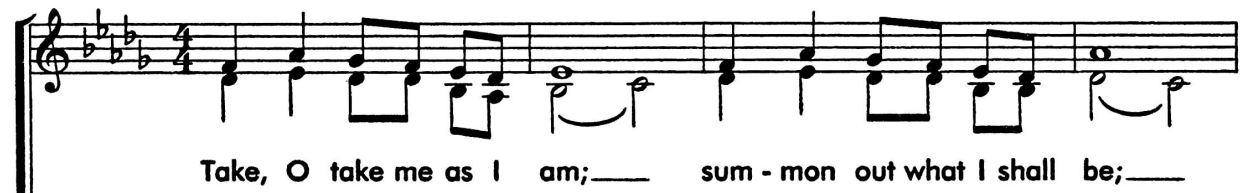
Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!" But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed. Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up, and Jesus saw the spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests."

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

Thanks be to God.

ECHO

"Take, O take"



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

I invite you to join together to pray for all in any need around the world. For all who are sick or suffering. For any whose poverty or place on the margins of society mean that they cannot adequately provide for themselves or their loved ones, For people who are held captive literally or figuratively, for any reason. For all who seek to practice their spirituality, that they may find God and follow the path of Life. For the grieving and the dead. We pray also with thanksgiving for any and all sources of joy and wonder.

And, today, since a new session of the U.S. Congress has begun, I invite you to join me in praying for leaders everywhere, in the words of John O'Donohue.

May you have the grace and wisdom
To act kindly, learning
To distinguish between what is
Personal and what is not.

May you be hospitable to criticism.
May you never put yourself at the center of things.

May you act not from arrogance but out of service.

May you work on yourself
Building up and refining the ways of your mind.

May you learn to cultivate the art of presence
In order to engage with those who meet you.

When someone fails or disappoints you
May the graciousness with which you engage
Be their stairway to renewal and refinement.

May you treasure the gifts of the mind
Through reading and creative thinking
So that you continue to be a servant of the frontier
Where the new will draw its enrichment from the old,
And you never become a functionary.

May you know the wisdom of deep listening,
The healing of wholesome words,
The encouragement of the appreciative gaze,
The decorum of held dignity,
The springtime of the bleak question.

May you have a mind that loves frontiers
So that you can evoke the bright fields
That lie beyond the view of the regular eye.

*These prayers are
an effort to pray
with one voice even
though we have a
diversity of needs
and hopes.*

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. You can place cash or a check in the big blue urn at the head of the aisle or [donate online here](#), or initiate an online donation by texting TRINITYBUFFALO to 73256. You can also get there by scanning this QR code:



*In spirit or in body,
please stand.*

This Eucharistic Prayer is adapted from Steven Shakespeare's Prayers For An Inclusive Church.

May you have good friends
To mirror your blind spots.

May leadership be for you
A true adventure of growth.
Amen.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“THIS BAPTIZING DAY” SETTING BY WILLIAM ALLEN PASCH

Jesus went down to the Jordan one day, his Father's calling to obey.
Then John baptized him; and the Lord God said: “This is the way!
This is my own dear Son. Follow him. His work's begun.
Sin's drowned, The victory's won! River, wash guilt away!”

This water flows as the promise of grace for all God's children in this place.
It's not our doing; Christ has done it all. Give God the praise!
Now let this flood of love wash us clean, all fear remove.
From earth to heaven above loud thanksgiving we raise!

When I go down to the river to pray thinking of my baptizing day,
The Holy Spirit tells me I'm new-born! Old sin away!
My Savior died for me. Resurrection sets us free!
Grace reigns eternally through this baptizing day!

SHARING THE OPEN TABLE

All are welcome to receive Communion at Trinity Church. No Exceptions!
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

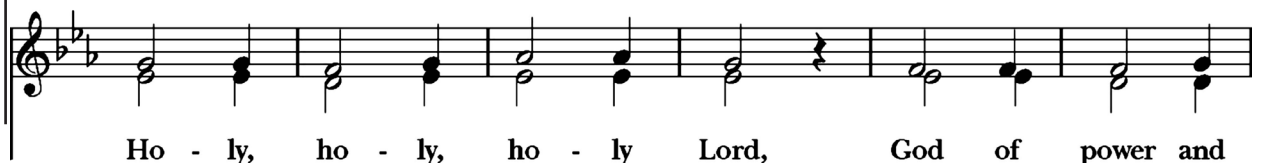
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings you never cease to call us to fullness of life. **You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world;** he fed us and feasted with us, he healed us and suffered for us; **his dying and rising have set us free from the poverty of sin and the famine of death.** Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the song of your praise:



might, _____ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, _____ hea - ven and earth are

full, _____ full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless'd is the one who comes _____

_____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho - san - na

*From
Deutsche Messe
by F. P.
Schubert*

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that they may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: **“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.”**

Therefore we proclaim him as creation’s host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Continued on next page

We are following a pattern of going back and forth between using an alternative interpretation of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks and then using the traditional Prayer Book version for a few weeks.

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.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Author of blessings, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Were not our hearts burning within us as we walked along the road?

RECEIVING COMMUNION

For those of you online, you may partake in communion using your own bread and wine or any substitutes that are meaningful to you.

For those in the building, you have several options: 1) stay in your place and receive communion from a communion kit that you picked up in the entrance to the church, or 2) bring a communion kit with you to the gathering near the altar and receive it in the company of others, or 3) come up to the altar and receive a piece of pita or a gluten-free rice cracker, or 4) come up, receive a piece of pita and ask the celebrant to dip it in the chalice so you can receive the wine as well.

PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray:

**God of new beginnings,
the veil between us thins as we draw near
around your wisdom and table.
Strengthen and renew us,
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit;
and may your light so shine through us
that all may welcome your coming presence.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. 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.

This blessing is based on the words of Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881).

HYMN

"WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH"

Refrain



We've come this far___ by faith,___ Lean-ing on___ the Lord;___



Trust - ing in his ho - ly word,___



He's ne - ver failed___ me yet. ___



O___ can't turn a - round___ we've come this far___ by faith. ___



1. Don't___ be dis-cour aged___ when trou-ble's___ in your life. ___



He'll bear___ your bur___ - dens and



move___ all mis - er - y and strife. That's why we've

Fine

D.S.

In spirit or in body, the congregation stands to sing hymns.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to follow the way of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"WHAT'S GOING ON" BY MARVIN GAYE

Our spiritual practice is renewed as we leave here and begin again to work the promises of the covenant.

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

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Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner

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Kayla Kisenwether, Senior Warden
 John Gillespie Jr, Junior Warden
 Bing Sherrill, Treasurer
 Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick, Clerk
 John Alduino
 Erickson Contreras
 Judy Fitzgerald
 Edward Fries
 Timothy Lane
 Megan McElfresh
 JoAnne Sundell
 Jeffrey Tooke

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 Cheryl Fisher
 Elaine "Gretchen" Lodick
 Christina Kinney
 Suzanne Fatta, Section Leader
 Gretchen Brand
 Sue Doherty
 Laura Schleicher, Section Leader
 Carol Siracuse
 John Clayton, Section Leader
 Dan Galley
 Steve Shanley
 Brandon Mecklenburg, Section Leader
 Timothy Lane
 Tom Owen
 Ignacio Villa

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Greeter:	Erickson Contreras
Readers:	Shirley Hudders, Ed Fries, one other
Guest musician:	Matt Harris, tenor saxophone
Counter:	Erickson Contreras
Baker:	Shirley Hudders

All services are in person AND online:

Sunday @10:30am

In-person worship while live streaming on Facebook and YouTube. The Sunday online Live Stream service remains accessible as a video recording on Trinity's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages after the service is over.

Sunday @7:00pm

Featuring poetry and jazz, in person in the Chapel and on Zoom

Wednesday @Noon

Prayer and holy conversation, in person and on Zoom

Thursday @7pm

The wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery, in person and on Zoom

Email your request for a [link to the Zoom worship services here](#).