



**A Service of Holy Communion**  
August 22, 2021; Year B, Proper 16

Cover image: "Osprey  
celebrating catch"  
Matt Lincoln, 2021

## **Welcome to Trinity's gathered community! We are together on-site and online!**

If you are at Trinity in person, please maintain appropriate distance and wear your mask, considering the fact that some of us may not be fully vaccinated or may have other vulnerabilities. We will celebrate Holy Communion as we have all year, with all participants holding their own bread and wine during the prayers and receiving communion in their seats. In this way, all participants on-site and online will share the same practice.

If you are not on-site, rest assured that your presence online is felt and valued. **As you watch the Live Stream, feel free to add comments, likes, etc. to the comment section at any time!**

**WiFi internet access is publicly available. Please feel free to log onto the "Trinity Open" network with the password "Welcome!"**

**If you are on-site, feel free to use your mobile device to join the Facebook Live Stream to connect with other worshipers in the comment section. Just make sure your volume is all the way down!**

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, even though we are not standing shoulder to shoulder for communion, we are gathered in Spirit sharing the bounty of faith. 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**

### **WELCOME**

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

### **CENTERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Because the world is beautiful, and beauty is a tender thing, and we are stewards of your creation, we need you, God.**

**Because human knowledge seems endless, and we do not know what we do not know, we need you, God.**

**Because we cannot live without you and are free to go against you, and could worship our wisdom alone, we need you, God.**

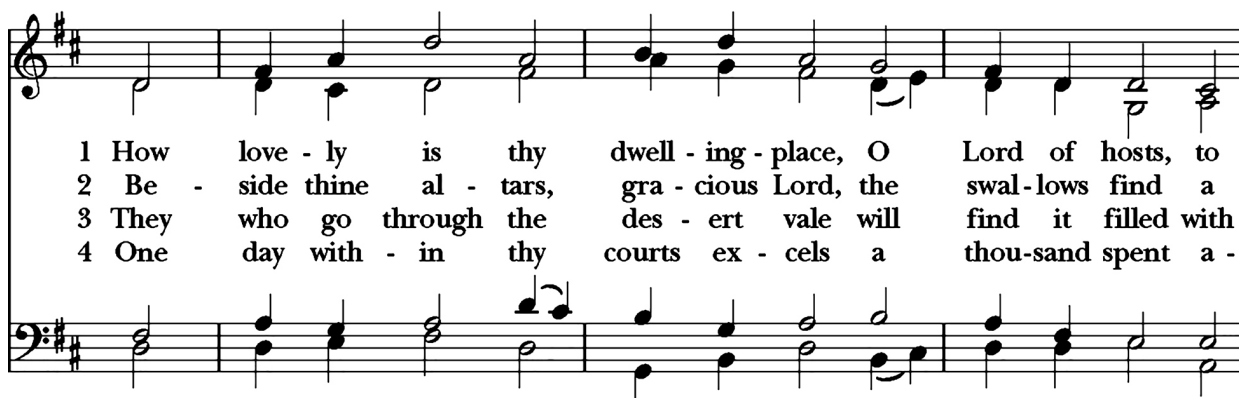
**Because you came among us, and sat beside us, and healed our pain and let us wound you, and loved us to the end, and triumph over all our hatred, we need you, God.**

**Amen.**

*This Centering  
Prayer is from the  
Iona Community.*

# OPENING HYMN

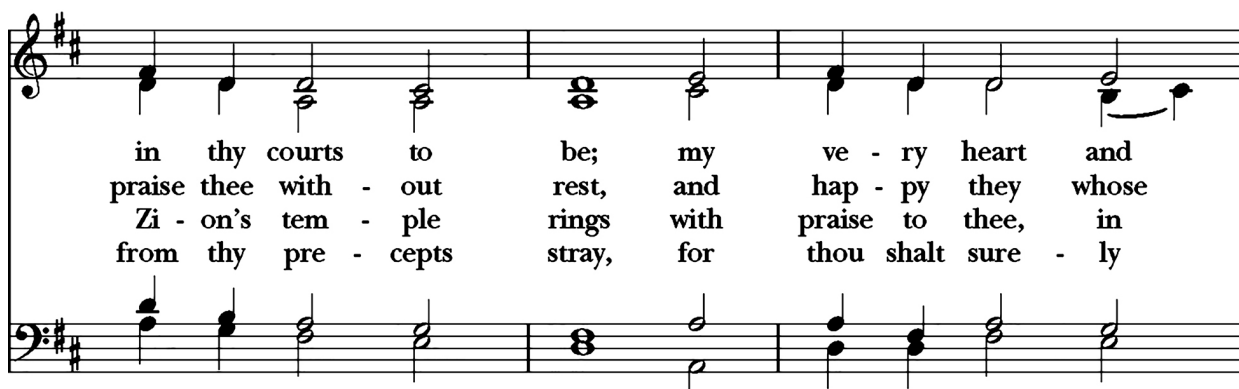
"How lovely is thy dwelling place"



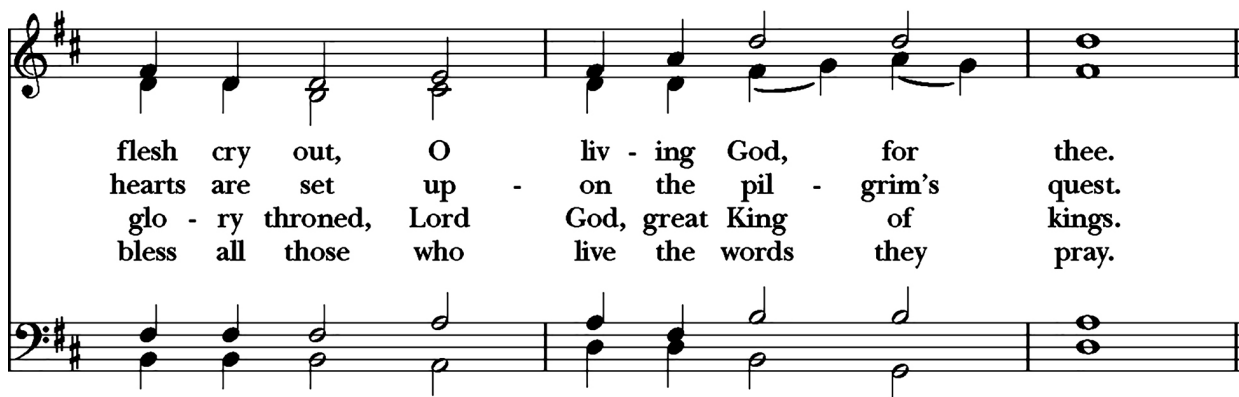
1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to  
 2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a  
 3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with  
 4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou-sand spent a -



me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -  
 nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and  
 springs, and they shall climb from height to height till  
 way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor



in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and  
 praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose  
 Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in  
 from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly



flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.  
 hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.  
 glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.  
 bless all those who live the words they pray.

Words: Para. of Psalm 84; sts 1-2, *The Psalm of David in Meeter*, 1650; sts. 3-4, Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) Copyright ©1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Music: *Brother James' Air*, J. L. Macbeth Bain (1840?-1925) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## FIRST READING

I KINGS 8:22-30, 41-43

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

*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.*

*Mary Oliver (1935-2019) wrote verse that focused on the quiet occurrences of nature. In addition to such major awards as the Pulitzer and National Book Award, Oliver received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Much of Ms. Oliver's writing is based on her beloved Cape Cod where she lived for 40 years with her life partner, the photographer Molly Malone Cook.*

**T**hen Solomon stood before the altar of God in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel, with hands spread out to heaven and said, "O God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above and on the earth below—keeping your Covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly to be faithful to you with all their hearts. You kept your promise to your servant David; by your deeds today, you fulfill what you said to David in words. Therefore, O God, keep your promise to your servant David, when you said, 'You will never lack for a person to sit before me on the judgment seat of Israel, if only your successors are careful how they behave, walking before me as you yourself did.' O God of Israel, may the promise you made to your attendant David come true!

"But can God really dwell on earth? Heaven itself, the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this Temple I have built! Hear the prayer and the plea for mercy of your servant, O, my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant makes in your presence today. May your eyes watch over this Temple day and night, over this place where you said, 'My Name shall be there!' Hear the prayer your servant offers in this place.

"Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel as they pray in this place. From heaven where you dwell, hear; and as you hear, forgive.

"And the foreigners as well, those who do not belong to your people Israel, if they come from a distant country for the sake of your Name—for they will hear of your Name, of your mighty hand and outstretched arm—if they come and worship in this Temple, then hear from heaven where your home is, and do whatever the foreigners ask of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your Name and revere you, as do your people Israel, and may know that this house I built bears your Name."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## MIDDLE READING

"THE REAL PRAYERS ARE NOT THE WORDS,  
BUT THE ATTENTION THAT COMES FIRST" BY MARY OLIVER

The little hawk leaned sideways and, tilted,  
rode the wind. Its eye at this distance looked  
like green glass; its feet were the color  
of butter. Speed obviously, was joy. But  
then, so was the sudden, slow circle it carved  
into the slightly silvery air, and the  
squaring of its shoulders, and the pulling into  
itself the long, sharp-edge wings, and the  
fall into the grass where it tussled a moment,  
like a bundle of brown leaves, and then, again,  
lifted itself into the air, that butter-color  
clenched in order to hold a small, still  
body, and it flew off as my mind sang out oh  
all that loose, blue rink of sky, where does  
it go to, and why?

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

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL READING

JOHN 6:56-69

**“E**veryone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I live in them. Just as the living Abba God sent me and I have life because of Abba God, so those who feed on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. It's not the kind of bread your ancestors ate, for they died; whoever eats this kind of bread will live forever.”

Jesus spoke these words while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. Many of his disciples remarked, “We can't put up with this kind of talk! Can anyone take it seriously?” Jesus was fully aware that the disciples were murmuring in protest at what he had said. “Is this a stumbling block for you?” he asked them. “What, then, if you were to see the Chosen One ascend to where the Chosen One came from? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh in itself is useless. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. Yet among you there are some who don't believe.” Jesus knew from the start, of course, those who would refuse to believe and the one who would betray him. He went on to say. “This is why I have told you that no one can come to me unless granted by Abba God.”

From this time on, many of the disciples broke away and wouldn't remain in the company of Jesus. Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Are you going to leave me, too?” Simon Peter answered, “Rabbi, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we're convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

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.**

*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 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.*

*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.*

## COMMUNITY PRAYER

Today's time for intercessory prayer is a moment to ask God's healing and blessing for people in general, and also in the particularity of this moment as we continue the journey through the pandemic at home and around the world. 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 Jesus, over the course of the pandemic, we have struggled to love our neighbors by staying away from each other. Through this difficult time, help us renew our commitment to the common good, remembering that all of us, from the greatest to the least, are cherished by God.

We have seen our communities divided not only by the necessary separation from friends, family, schoolmates, and coworkers, but also by fear and jealousy, arrogance and greed. Help us to see your face and the glory of God in the faces of all people.

### Refrain:

*These prayers are framed as a meditation on the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, making use of a Taizé setting of Jesus' words to his disciples that night.*

♩ = 72

*p* Dm Gm6 Dm Gm6 Dm C

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and

*f* F C Dm *p* Asus A

pray, watch and pray.

*f* *p*

You were welcomed into the Holy City with joy and hope as you rode on a gentle and innocent foal. Help us to receive your Spirit of mutual regard and love.

The night before you died, you modeled for us how to live together in harmony, serving each other rather than striving for power over each other. Help us again to follow your way of love.

Later that night, when you were afraid, you asked Peter, James, and John to stay with you and pray with you. Help us to support one another in prayer and companionship, and to trust that you will be with us always.

As you died on the cross, you prayed for those who betrayed you and did violence to you to be forgiven. Help us to understand and acknowledge our own potential for cruelty and violence and turn again to follow your way of love.

### Refrain

We pray for all in authority and positions of public trust, for leaders and rulers everywhere, that they might not seek their own gain but the welfare of their people.

We pray for the protection of all people around the world from Covid-19, 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 wellbeing and safety of others throughout the pandemic.

We pray for all others who suffer illness or heartbreak, for those who struggle due to poverty or injustice, and for those who care for them.

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve.

We pray with thanksgiving for joy, creativity, affection, and the renewal of life, wherever they may be found.

Remain here with us Lord Christ, and accept and strengthen our determination to stay with you, as together, we watch and pray. **Amen.**

### Refrain

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

### 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 HYMN

"THE GRAIN FOR THIS BREAD ONCE COVERED A HILL"

The musical score is written for a single voice in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) and a repeat sign at the beginning. The lyrics are: 'The grain for this bread once cov - ered a hill. The'. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: 'grain for this bread once cov - ered a hill.'. The third staff continues with the lyrics: 'Now it is gath - ered, and so are we. Soon we'll be fed and our hearts set free to'. The fourth staff concludes the hymn with the lyrics: 'love our neigh - bors and do God's will. The'. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The grain for this bread once cov - ered a hill. The

grain for this bread once cov - ered a hill.

Now it is gath - ered, and so are we. Soon we'll be fed and our hearts set free to

love our neigh - bors and do God's will. The

**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 the word "give" to (716)221-8580.

*The Eucharistic Prayer is adapted from a prayer by Steven Shakespeare in his book, Prayers for an Inclusive Church.*

*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, then the Prayer Book version for a week or two, etc.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might;**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*At the following words, everyone lifts their plate and cup communion elements into view.*

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.

**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, heart of the world:**

**revealed through every aspect of creation,  
understood through our awareness.**

**May we honor the holiness of creation and act accordingly  
so that your love is reflected in the way we live.**

**May we always be thankful for the food we eat and the friends we have.**

**May we forgive those who transgress against us  
and be forgiven for our own transgressions.**

**In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat  
and not be compromised by hesitation.**

**Through our freedom, may your justice be seen and heard and experienced  
forever and ever. 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

*During a moment of quiet, all receive their bread and wine while remaining where they are. In a few minutes, someone will come by with a tray to collect your cup.*

## PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Let us pray:

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and remembering the body of Christ,  
which has been broken for the life of the world.**

**Now give us grace to trust that we are  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed.**

**Give us the courage to proclaim your love to the world,  
and to continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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 version  
of the Lord's  
Prayer is  
by Sherri J.  
Weinberg.*

*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  
for the Road  
by Steven  
Shakespeare is  
from his book  
"Prayers for  
an Inclusive  
Church."*

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

# HYMN

"O HEALING RIVER"



1. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your  
 2. This land is parch - ing, this land is  
 3. Let the seed of free - dom, a - wake and



wa - ters, Send down your wa - ters up - on this  
 burn - ing, No seed is grow - ing in the bar - ren  
 flour - ish, Let the deep roots nour - ish, let the tall stalks



land. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your  
 ground. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your  
 rise. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your



wa - ters, And wash the blood from off the sand.  
 wa - ters, O heal - ing riv - er, send your wa - ters down.  
 wa - ters, O heal - ing riv - er, from out of the skies.

## 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

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## **GREENING OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES; HOW NATIVE TREES CAN RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT**

Join the Interfaith Climate Justice Community on **Thursday, Aug. 26 @7:00pm** at the North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Ave., Williamsville 14221. Sally Cunningham, horticulturist, educator and author will offer a presentation about Native tree selection and care. Trees reduce the effects of climate change. Special reduced prices on Native trees will be offered to Faith Communities and individuals attending.



On Saturday, August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the southwest portion of Haiti. This devastating earthquake was followed by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night and much of Tuesday. More than one million people, including more than half a million children, have been impacted by the back-to-back disasters,

and the death toll is close to 2000. Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners are responding immediately with direct assistance to vulnerable households in the region, as partners plan long-term recovery. Your generous gift can provide assistance to help people in the wake of these disasters. To assist in these efforts, visit [episcopalrelief.org/haiti-relief](https://episcopalrelief.org/haiti-relief).

## **WAKING UP WHITE IN SMALLER PARISHES**

There are some small congregations in our Diocesan Partnership who are interested in doing Sacred Ground and possibly leading some book discussions for congregation and community members who may not be quite ready to commit to the full Sacred Ground course. Trinity Church can support this effort.

Do you have copies of Waking Up White and/or Howard Thurman's Jesus and the Disinherited that you would be willing to part with? Or perhaps you'd be willing to purchase a copy for someone in the more rural areas of the Partnership?

If you'd like to donate a book or two, please contact [Teresa Maciocha](#). She will collect the books at Trinity for one shipment. Thank you!

## **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** In-person worship while live streaming on Facebook and now YouTube as well. 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** Sunday night @7pm featuring poetry and jazz, in person as well as on Zoom. The remaining summer schedule is September 5 and 19.

**WEDNESDAY @NOON** offering prayer and holy conversation. This service is now both in person and on Zoom.

**THURSDAY @7** offering the wisdom and fellowship of 12-Step recovery. Both in person and on Zoom.



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

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## STAFF

**The Reverend Matthew R. Lincoln, Rector**  
[mcoln@trinitybuffalo.org](mailto:mcoln@trinitybuffalo.org)  
(716) 852-8314 ext. 14

**Krista Seddon, Director of Ensembles;  
Pianist**

[krista@kristaseddon.com](mailto:krista@kristaseddon.com)  
[www.kristaseddon.com](http://www.kristaseddon.com)

**Paul Cena, Organist and Choir Director**  
[prcena@verizon.net](mailto:prcena@verizon.net)

**Jeffrey Tooke, Cyber Sacristan**

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

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

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

**Meghan Arnold, Caretaker**  
**Sarah Caputi, Caretaker**  
**Jay Mpelezos, Caretaker**  
**Dale Worwa, Facility Cleaner**

## VESTRY

Judy Atkinson-Miller, Senior Warden  
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

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

**Greeters:** John Alduino, Marie Keane, Chris Cuccia  
**Readers:** Kayla Kisenwether, Christian Eshelman, Shirley Hudders  
**Guest Musicians:** George Caldwell, piano; Harry Fackelman, saxophone  
**Counters:** Kayla Kisenwether

## All services are in person AND online:

**Sunday @10:30am** Includes communion at an open table  
**Sunday @7:00pm** An encounter with God through poetry, jazz, and meditation  
Remaining summer schedule: Sept 5 and 19.  
**Wednesday @Noon** Rite 2 communion and coffee  
**Thursday @7pm** 12steps@Trinity, based on 12-step spirituality