

Trinity Episcopal Church

Torrington, Connecticut

The Great Vigil of Easter with Holy Baptism and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

April 19, 2025



Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church.

Whoever you are and wherever you may be on your spiritual journey, we are glad you have joined us for worship. May you know the presence of the living God who welcomes you here. You are invited to participate in worship by using this leaflet and the *blue Hymnal*, and you are invited to sit, stand, or kneel as you are able. The full text of the prayers can be found in the *Red Book of Common Prayer* and are indicated with "BCP" in the leaflet.

A note on children, or anyone else who might not be able to sit still through a long service:

Jesus welcomed the little children, and so do we! We can abide with a little "joyful noise" at Trinity.

If you need to get up and walk around, the outer aisles of the sanctuary are available.

If you need to step out for any reason, the Upper Parish Hall (found through a doorway in the front left of the sanctuary, behind the organ console) has restrooms with a changing table, as well as an area with couches and a children's area.

Please make yourselves comfortable and know that you are welcome.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

We gather in the Tower entrance on Water Street or sitting in the Sanctuary if you prefer.
In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Bishop addresses the People:

Bishop: Dear friends in Christ... Let us pray.

BCP 285

The Bishop prays the Collect.

People: Amen.

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire and the People's candles are lighted (tilt the unlit candle towards the lighted candle). We process inside in the following order:

Thurifer, Assisting Priest, Presider, Readers, Choir, Acolyte,
Candidates for Baptism and Reaffirmation with sponsors, and the People of God

We pause three times and sing:



The Liturgy of the Word

Bishop: Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

*All are seated. Because of the reflective nature of the Vigil readings,
the traditional responses after the readings are omitted.*

I. The Story of Creation: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Read by Bruce and Eleanor Fox

Response: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 in unison

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good. God's faithful love lasts forever!
Give thanks to the God of all gods— God's faithful love lasts forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of all lords— God's faithful love lasts forever.
Give thanks to the only one who makes great wonders— God's faithful love lasts forever.
Give thanks to the one who made the skies with skill— God's faithful love lasts forever.
Give thanks to the one who shaped the earth on the water— God's faithful love lasts forever.
Give thanks to the one who made the great lights— God's faithful love lasts forever.
The sun to rule the day— God's faithful love lasts forever.
The moon and the stars to rule the night— God's faithful love lasts forever!
God remembered us when we were humiliated— God's faithful love lasts forever.
God rescued us from our enemies— God's faithful love lasts forever.
God is the one who provides food for all living things— God's faithful love lasts forever!
Give thanks to the God of heaven— God's faithful love lasts forever!

Collect

Bishop: Let us pray.

All stand, and silence is kept for silent prayer. Then the Bishop prays the collect.

People: Amen.

II. The Flood: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13

Read by Lydia Babbitt

Response: Psalm 46 in unison

God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble.
That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart,
when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea, when its waters roar and rage,
when the mountains shake because of its surging waves. Selah
There is a river whose streams gladden God's city, the holiest dwelling of the Most High.
God is in that city. It will never crumble. God will help it when morning dawns.
Nations roar; kingdoms crumble. God utters his voice; the earth melts.
The Lord of heavenly forces is with us! The God of Jacob is our place of safety. Selah
Come, see the Lord's deeds, what devastation he has imposed on the earth—
bringing wars to an end in every corner of the world,
breaking the bow and shattering the spear, burning chariots with fire.

“That’s enough! Now know that I am God!

I am exalted among all nations; I am exalted throughout the world!”

The Lord of heavenly forces is with us! The God of Jacob is our place of safety. Selah

Collect

Bishop: Let us pray.

All stand, and silence is kept for silent prayer. Then the Bishop prays the collect.

People: Amen.

III. Abraham’s Sacrifice of Isaac: Genesis 22:1-18

Read by Claudia Buick

Response: Psalm 16 in unison

Protect me, God, because I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord.

Apart from you, I have nothing good.”

Now as for the “holy ones” in the land,

the “magnificent ones” that I was so happy about;

let their suffering increase because

they hurried after a different god.

I won’t participate in their blood offerings;

I won’t let their names cross my lips.

You, Lord, are my portion, my cup;

you control my destiny.

The property lines have fallen beautifully for me;

yes, I have a lovely home.

I will bless the Lord who advises me;

even at night I am instructed

in the depths of my mind.

I always put the Lord in front of me;

I will not stumble because he is on my right side.

That’s why my heart celebrates and my mood is joyous;

yes, my whole body will rest in safety

because you won’t abandon my life to the grave;

you won’t let your faithful follower see the pit.

You teach me the way of life.

In your presence is total celebration.

Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

Collect

Bishop: Let us pray.

All stand, and silence is kept for silent prayer. Then the Bishop prays the collect.

People: Amen.

IV. Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Read by Newlin Keen

Response: The Song of Moses *in unison*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted;
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; the Lord has become my Savior.
This is my God and I will praise him, the God of my people and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a mighty warrior; Yahweh is his Name.
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea;
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might;
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods?
who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?
You stretched forth your right hand; the earth swallowed them up.
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed;
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them on the mount of your possession,
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord,
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.
The Lord shall reign for ever and for ever.

Collect

Bishop: Let us pray.

All stand, and silence is kept for silent prayer. Then the Bishop prays the collect.

People: Amen.

V. A new heart and a new spirit: Ezekiel 36:24-28

Read by Melita Harris

Response: The First Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2-6) *In unison*

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

VI. The valley of dry bones: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Read by Beth Steinberg

Response: Psalm 143 *In unison*

Listen to my prayer, Lord! Because of your faithfulness, hear my requests for mercy!
Because of your righteousness, answer me!
Please don't bring your servant to judgment, because no living thing is righteous before you.
The enemy is chasing me, crushing my life in the dirt,
forcing me to live in the dark like those who've been dead forever.
My spirit is weak inside me—inside, my mind is numb.
I remember the days long past; I meditate on all your deeds; I contemplate your handiwork.
I stretch out my hands to you; my whole being is like dry dirt, thirsting for you. Selah.
Answer me, Lord—and quickly! My breath is fading.
Don't hide your face from me or I'll be like those going down to the pit!
Tell me all about your faithful love come morning time, because I trust you.
Show me the way I should go, because I offer my life up to you.
Deliver me from my enemies, Lord! I seek protection from you.
Teach me to do what pleases you, because you are my God.
Guide me by your good spirit into good land.
Make me live again, Lord, for your name's sake.
Bring me out of distress because of your righteousness.
Wipe out my enemies because of your faithful love.
Destroy everyone who attacks me, because I am your servant.

Collect

Bishop: Let us pray.

All stand, and silence is kept for silent prayer. Then the Bishop prays the collect.

People: Amen.

VII. The gathering of God's people: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Read by Rhys Withnell

Response: Psalm 98 *In unison*

When the Lord changed Zion's circumstances for the better, it was like we had been dreaming.
Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.
It was even said, at that time, among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them!"
Yes, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed.
Lord, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste!
Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.
Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed,
come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

Collect

Bishop: Let us pray.

All stand, and silence is kept for silent prayer. Then the Bishop prays the collect.

People: Amen.

Holy Baptism of Matilda Elizabeth Combs and Renewal of Baptismal Vows of Richard Santiago

All are invited to gather around the Baptismal Font.

The Presentation

Bishop: The candidate for Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsors: I present Matilda Elizabeth to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Bishop: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Sponsors: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Sponsors: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Sponsors: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Sponsors: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Sponsors: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Sponsors: I do.

Bishop: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Sponsors: I do.

Bishop: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Sponsors: I do.

Bishop: The other Candidate will now be presented.

Sponsor: I present this person who desires to reaffirm his baptismal vows.

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate: I do.

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

Bishop: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?
People: **We will!**
Bishop: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father?
People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**
Bishop: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**
Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Bishop: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?
People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop: Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth and for this person who has renewed their commitment to Christ.

After each bidding, the People respond:

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Then the Bishop prays the collect.

People: **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Bishop: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water... To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Baptism

After the Baptism, the Bishop says

Bishop: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People: **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

The Reaffirmation

We pray for Richard and the Bishop lays hands on him. The Bishop adds a concluding Collect.

People: **Amen**

All may greet the newly baptized and those who have reaffirmed their vows with joy!

At the Eucharist

The Easter Proclamation

Said three times

Bishop: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*The Altar candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle, the lights are turned on,
and candles may be extinguished, then we sing together:*

Canticle: Gloria in excelsis, S-278

Setting: William Mathias

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
God the Fa-ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us pray.

The Bishop prays the collect.

People: **Amen**

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:3-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Easter Alleluia

All stand. After the Epistle, this Alleluia is traditionally sung three times by the Cantor, at successively higher pitches, with the Congregation repeating it each time:



The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

Assisting Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Gospel:

Assisting Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens

A period of silence for meditation and reflection follows the Sermon.

The Peace

Bishop: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

You are invited to share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

The Holy Communion

At the Offertory as the Table is set, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically, through the bread and wine, hymn sung by the congregation, and the money and gifts we give.

You are invited to give as you feel called, either by placing your offering in the plate as it is passed around or by going to our website, www.trinity-torrington.org/donate.

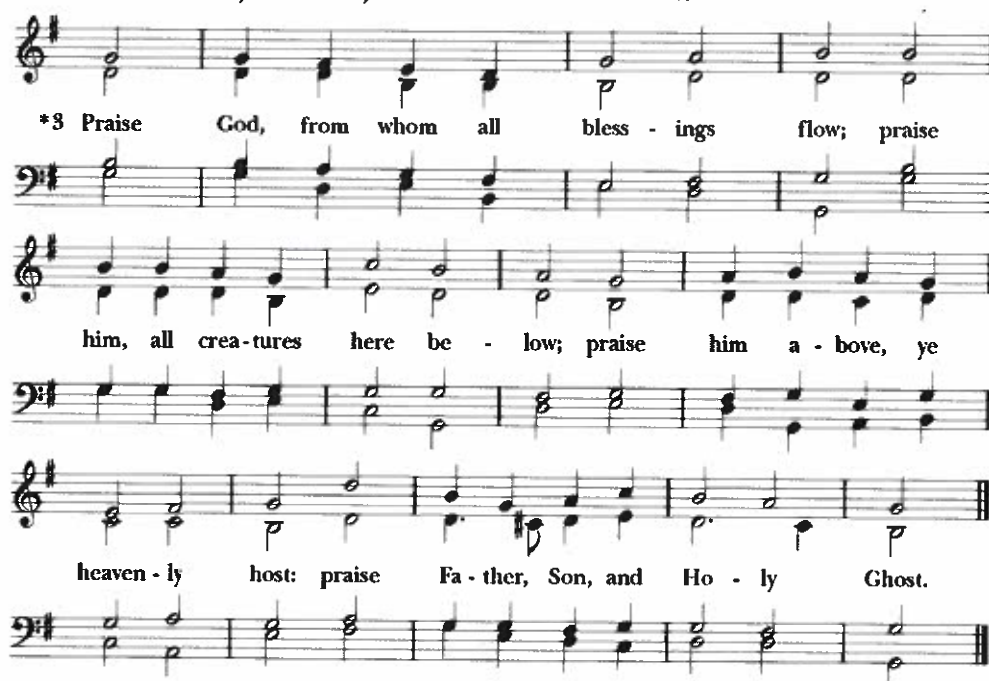
At the Offertory: Heavenly Light

Alexander Kopylov

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shie, O Light Divine!
May each soul in sorrow's night, see the heavenly light! Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation! All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar!
Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray!
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise Thee!

Presentation Hymn 380, verse 3

All stand



*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP 372

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Bishop: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks... as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

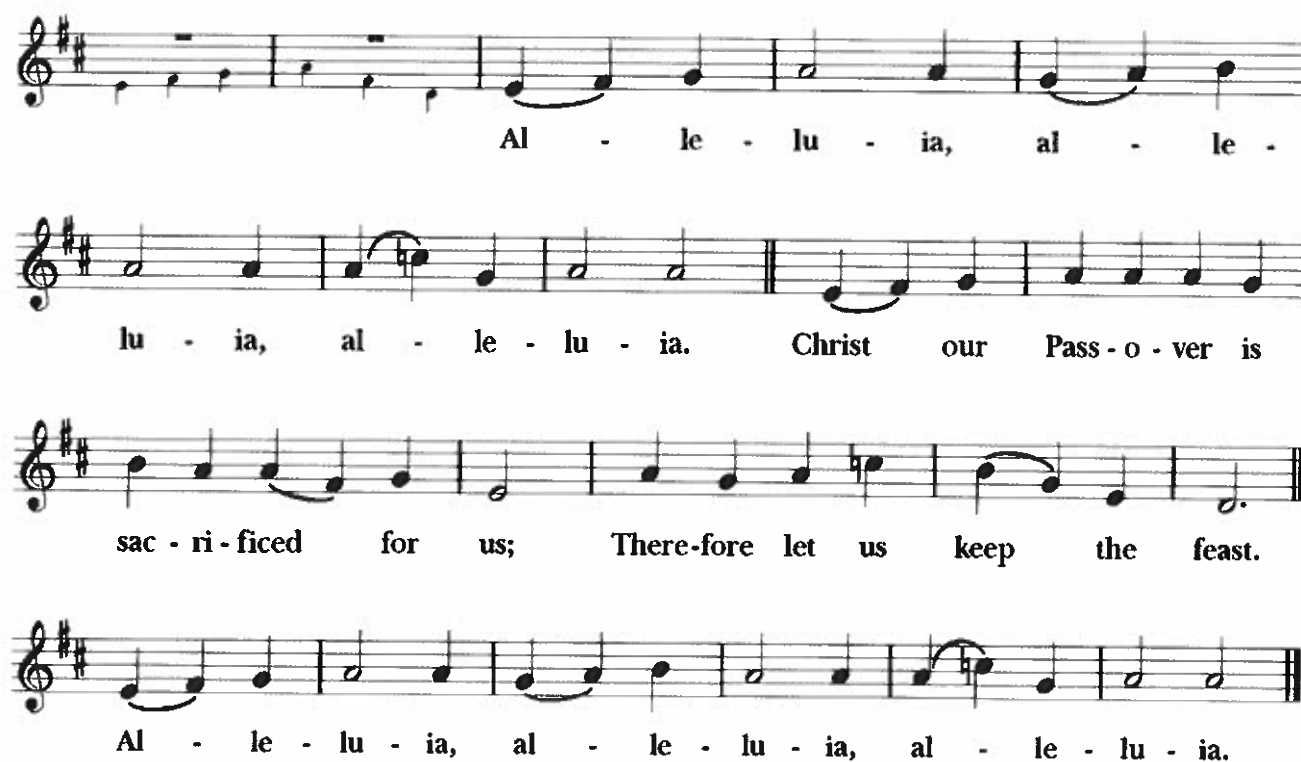
- Bishop: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power... and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.
- People: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God
- Bishop: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us... Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.
- People: AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

- Bishop: And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:
- All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Bishop breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept, then all sing:



Communion of the People

All are welcome at the Table of the Lord, either for communion or a priestly blessing.

An usher will guide you up the center aisle if you choose to come forward.

For those who desire communion, you may receive the bread (or gluten free wafer) at the front of the altar.

*We have two chalices: one on the **right for sipping**, and one on the **left for intinction** (dipping).*

As always, receiving communion in one kind (just bread) is considered valid. If you prefer to receive a blessing, come to the altar with your arms crossed over your chest, and the Bishop will be honored to bless you.

If you need communion brought to your pew, please speak to an usher.

A note on safety: Hand sanitizer is available to the left of the altar.

Music at the Distribution: Hymn 304 I come with joy to meet my Lord

Tune: Land of Rest

The Postcommunion Prayer

All stand

BCP 366

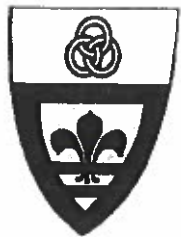
Bishop: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing *All stand. After each bidding the people respond with "Amen."*

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Mission Statement:



“We are an inclusive and accepting downtown community, welcoming all to join us on our journey to seek and share God’s abundant love through worship, the arts, and service in our community.”

Sunday Worship at 9:00 AM:

Holy Eucharist 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays

Morning Prayer 2nd and 5th Sundays

Trinity Staff:

The Reverend Carrie Combs, Priest in Charge

Timothy Wallace, Music Director

Ms. Melanie Lay, Administrative Assistant, Bookkeeper

Vestry:

Lydia Babbitt, Sr. Warden, Dr. Roger Coutant, Jr. Warden

Robin Turpin, Treasurer, Dana Farr, Clerk Gary Grant, Building Warden

Naomi Cardello, Ella Frauenhofer, Dr. Jessica Magda,

Bob Naeher, Richard Santiago, Lynn Skokan

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