

Dear People of Trinity,

May 1, 2022

Grace to you and peace! I am honored to have been called to serve as your Priest in Charge and look forward to working alongside you. Some of you I know, either from my supply work among you, or by being your neighbor, and some of you I do not. In the coming weeks and months I hope to get to know all of you better in this context and begin our work together as a community. You can call me Mother Carrie, or Carrie as you are comfortable.

A bit about me, for those of you I haven't met yet. I am a native Nutmegger, having grown up in Cheshire. I went to school at Holy Cross in Worcester and enjoyed two different years in the UK, studying and working in Oxford and Coventry. Along with several other young adults I lived and worked in New Haven as part of the Episcopal Service Corps before heading to Sewanee, TN for my seminary education. Following graduation and ordination, I served at Trinity in Newtown as Curate and Trinity in Collinsville as Priest in Charge (and no, it has not escaped my notice that there is a pattern there). For the past two years I, along with my husband Nik and our dog Declan, have made Torrington our home. My church related passions include formation for all ages, crafting beautiful and creative liturgies, and pastoral care and conversations. I also serve our diocese as the Secretary of Convention and provide administrative support to the Episcopal Church's General Convention Office. Outside of work, I play the French Horn in the Torrington Symphony Orchestra and the Harmonious Brass ensemble, frequent the weight room at the YMCA, and try my best to grow vegetables in our tiny yard.

One of the many reasons I am drawn to Trinity is your relationship with the community. The beautiful building, which I know this parish has worked hard to maintain, serves as a minister to our town, housing ministries that support the people we live alongside. More than that, I am excited to work alongside you who are a part of this parish and your many gifts, talents, and passions for living out God's mission of love. Part of my call as a part time priest is to support the various ways in which the laity of Trinity are already involved in this mission and to explore new ways in which we can bring our full selves into this work. You have faithfully weathered many transitions and times of uncertainty, and while I do not think these times are over (or ever will be - we live in an ever changing world), I do know that faith and community can provide a framework and way of understanding the world around us.

In the coming weeks I will be setting up regular office hours and a Sunday schedule, as well as establishing particular areas of ministry in conversation with the vestry and the wider parish. I look forward to exploring with creativity and courage the ways in which God is calling us to love.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Carrie A. Combs