



Welcome

to Trinity Church

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after
Pentecost

November 19, 2023

Have you noticed the themes of the Gospels over the last few weeks? If the central character in each selection represents Jesus, Matthew is not showing us a warm, loving God. As we are confronted with shorter, darker and colder days as we move into winter, Matthew's Gospels seem to be preparing us for that season. They are harsh and replete with apocalyptic language. We are coming to the end of the Church year. Advent starts in 2 weeks. The lectionary selections from Matthew are driving home the point that the end is near.

Perhaps providing some context through understanding the cycle of lectionary readings and the audience to whom Matthew is writing can provide us with some insight as to why this parable is presented now and why Matthew frames the story in the manner in which it is presented.

Within the Episcopal Church, our readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary, a table of scripture readings that are appointed for worship. This practice of having specific texts for a specific day dates back to the 4th century. The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is based on a 3 year cycle of Sunday Eucharistic readings: Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew, Year B focuses on Mark and Year C focuses on Luke. The Gospel of John is interspersed through all 3 years of the lectionary. The Sunday readings are chosen to highlight the ministry of Jesus Christ and the story of God's people (<https://lessonplansthatwork.org/revised-common-lectionary/>). Neat and orderly, as Episcopalians like things to be!

Currently, we are finishing Year A and have been reading Matthew. Matthew is writing for a community of Christians composed of a great number of recent converts from Judaism. It is important to Matthew that fidelity to the law, which is significant in Jewish communities, now be understood in these newly Christian communities, as the law proclaimed and enacted by Jesus. So, as we come to the end of the Church Year where we find many parables dealing with the end of time and the end of reading Matthew's Gospel, we hear Jesus in this parable trying to prepare His disciples for the long waiting period until His return at the end of time. In Matthew's Gospel, the disciples are reminded of what they have been given and who they serve. Matthew's tone becomes dark and his language is apocalyptic which is in keeping with the analysis that this Gospel more than any of the other synoptic gospels, those written by Mark and Luke, asserts that judgment and damnation are truly options for those who don't translate beliefs into actions. Context helps us understand why we have been hearing dark, apocalyptic readings these weeks and Matthew's Gospel seems to have more than his fair share of parables of such a nature.

Blessings,
Dcn Carolyn

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Worship at Trinity

Powerful, joyful and Spirit-filled worship that is reverent, warm and inviting, with uplifting music and preaching!

Sundays:

- 8 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church**
A gentle, said service (no music)
- 9 AM Santa Eucaristia/Holy Eucharist in the Church**
Spanish-language service
- 10 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church**
Joyous, sung music

Monday-Friday:

- 7:30 AM Morning Prayer said in the home M - F**
Resources available at www.TrinityNJ.com/Worship
- 7:30 AM Wednesday - Morning Prayer in the Chapel**
****On break**

Wednesdays:

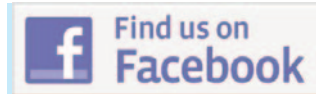
- 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel**
Healing Service first Wednesday of the month

Connect with Us

CONTACT US

Trinity Church, 503 Asbury Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.
Tel: 732-775-5084 • Fax: 732-775-3865
Email: office@trinitynj.com • Web: trinitynj.com

In the case of an emergency, death or serious illness, contact the church office. There is a pastoral emergency option on the phone if no one is available to answer.



[Facebook.com/TrinityAP](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityAP)



[Instagram.com/TrinityChurchAP](https://www.instagram.com/TrinityChurchAP)
(#TrinityChurchAP)



Venmo
(@TrinityChurch)

Trinity Basics

PASTORAL SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS: Contact Jill Osis in the parish office for all non-emergency pastoral needs: Baptisms, the rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent (personal confession & counsel), Blessing of Marriage & Unions, communion for the sick and homebound, or visits to the hospital.

PANTRY & COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN: The Trinity Food Pantry is open Tuesdays from 11AM-1PM and on Saturday, a hot, sit-down meal is served from 11:30AM-12:30PM. Questions? Contact Derek at Derek@TrinityNJ.com.

CHOIRS: Find out about our dynamic and growing choirs, contact Dr. Deborah Simpkin King at Deborah@TrinityNJ.com for information!

PARISH LEADERSHIP (Vestry):

Lesley Castellini (warden) Carol Scollay (warden)
Gregory Curatolo, Donna Griffin, Charles Hagon, Wendy Jaghab, James Pillar, Andy Place, Bill Presutti, Maria Tassiello, and Adrienne Wert You may contact the vestry at: vestrywardens@trinitynj.com

Parish Staff

The Rev. Chase Danford, Rector
FrChase@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Tom Conway, Assisting Priest
FrTom@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss, Assisting Priest
Geoff@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Gail Bennett, Deacon
Associate for Pastoral Care and Bereavement Ministry
Deacongail@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Bradley, Deacon
Director of Pastoral Care and Adult Christian Formation
Cabradleydcn@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Katherine Cunningham, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor
Katherine@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Lucille Donahue, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor
Revolu@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Tom Pivinski, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor

Kris Hlatky, Social Justice Worker
Kris@Trinitynj.com

Deborah Simpkin King, Director of Music and Arts
Deborah@trinitynj.com

Derek Bloom, Director of Social Justice
Derek@trinitynj.com

Siobhan Noland, Social Justice Development Manager
Siobhan@Trinitynj.com

Jill Osis, Director of Operations
Jill@trinitynj.com

Courtney Pearson, Operations Assistant
Courtney@trinitynj.com

Tim Sexsmith, Property Supervisor
Tim@trinitynj.com

Parish Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:

Karl Kaufman	Jackie Campanelli	Johnnie Newman	Nick Papadopoulos
Faye Hudson	Yvonne Paradiso	Adam	John
MaryLou Leask	Roy	Karen Trout	Raymond Stice
Kevin McDonald	Antonella	William	Tim Higgins
Jerry Fargo	Gail M	James Pillar Sr.	

If you would like to be added to the prayer list or would like to add someone else (*please get their permission first*), please email prayer@trinitynj.com or call Wendy Jaghab at 732-616-8568 by the Tuesday before you would like the name to appear in the bulletin. Names will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks, and can be readed upon request.



Prayer Team Ministry. During communion, those who would like someone to pray with them are invited to come to one of the prayer stations located in the back of the church. A member of the Trinity Prayer Team will say a prayer with you for yourself or someone else. You are welcome to sit or stand during the prayer. What is said at the prayer station is held in confidence by the person who prays with you. They cannot talk with you or anyone else about your requested prayer without your permission. The only exception is a person intending to harm themselves or someone else. Questions about this ministry? Contact Joanie McCoy, leader of the Prayer Team at 908-216-5529 or 732-780-3111 or PrayerTeam@TrinityNJ.com.

Trinity Cycle of Prayer During Morning Prayer this week, we will be praying for the following Trinity Parishioners and Friends:

11/20	11/21	11/22	11/23	11/24
Devin and Vivienne Brown	Julia Bruno & Sandra Delzotti	Kevin Burkitt	Kim Byham & Scott Helsel	Brice, Keri, Brice Jr., Brody, and Brady Byham

News & Notes

Advent Wreath Project ~ Today after the 10am Service

We will gather today in the gym after the 10 am service to create Advent Wreaths for our household use.

Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist ~ Wednesday November 22, 6:30pm

Please join us on Wednesday, November 22nd at 6:30pm as we gather to give thanks for the blessings of our lives at a special Thanksgiving Eve communion service. The service will take place in the church and all are welcome! This is a good opportunity to invite friends and neighbors of all faith backgrounds as we celebrate this shared civic holiday in the context of our church's liturgy.

Trinity Church is a Code Blue Warming Center!

Trinity Church is once again a Code Blue Warming Center for Monmouth County. After taking a break during Covid when the County was housing people in hotels, Trinity Church has contracted with Monmouth County to provide an evening warming center during Code Blue Emergencies. This means that whenever the temperature drops below 32 degrees, Trinity will open its gym from 7pm-6am to anyone in the County who needs a warm, safe space to stay. This is going to take a great deal of work from our parish and our community. With funds provided by the county, we will be hiring a coordinator and a security person. But there is so much more! **How can you help?** We need volunteers to help in many ways: 1) **Sign up to volunteer** to take a 4-hour shift on Code Blue Evenings. Each night will be divided into 3 shifts of 4 hours. Volunteer as much or as little as you like. 2) **Drop off food and supplies:** coffee, cups, sugar packets, packaged snacks and bars, puzzle books, decks of cards etc. (any time); and fresh fruits and food (on nights when Code Blue is in effect). 3) **Donate!** We need to purchase food & supplies, pay staff, run utilities and generally keep the building open for 24 hour days for much of the winter. We also need to buy at least 60 specialty chairs that our guests can relax in and rest while they are warming. To give toward the Code Blue program please visit our new giving site at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z95F/campaign/C-14F8W> or scan the QR Code to the right. To find out more information or to be put on our volunteer list for Code Blue, please email us at office@trinitynj.com. Keeping our unhoused community members warm and safe is a top priority for Trinity and we hope that we can come together to make this a welcoming space for all!



Social Justice Coffee Hour: Gun Control & Moms Demand Action ~ November 26th at 11:30am

November's Social Justice Coffee Hour will focus on Gun Control in an event hosted by Trinity, Parishioner Mark McDonald, and Moms Demand Action. Moms Demand Action is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. They work to pass stronger gun laws and close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our families. They also work in our communities and with business leaders to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership. They believe that gun violence is preventable, and are committed to doing what it takes to keep families safe. Join us on Sunday, November 26th at 11:30am as they discuss their work and lead us into an action for Gun Control.

Upcoming Adult Education Programs

November 26 through December 10 ~ Advent Series using meditations on the season from Richard Rohr to be held in the Conference Room at 9 AM with Deacon Carolyn.

Sunday, December 3 ~ It's a Christmas Cookie Exchange! Join us after all three services in the back of the church. Please bring a dozen (or more) of your favorite Christmas cookies. Homemade or store purchased to exchange with other parishioners. Boxes and gloves will be provided. The Adult Education Committee will host coffee hour on that Sunday.

Sunday, December 17 ~ Scripture themes and contemporary lessons from our stained glass window of the Nativity with Denzel Donaldson, General Theological Seminary student. To be held in the Conference Room at 9am.

World AIDS Day Candlelight Walk and Program Friday, December 1st

The Center in Asbury Park, Trinity Church & Project Real are organizing a candlelight walk and service to commemorate the 35th annual World AIDS Day. This year's program will begin at the Municipal Building at 7:15pm to kick off the celebration with a candlelight walk up Cookman Avenue to Grand Avenue ending at Trinity Church. At 8pm, we will host a very special program here at Trinity and immediately following, the celebration will continue with an Open Mic Night at Project Real (805 4th Ave, Asbury Park). We hope you can join us!

An Afternoon of Conversation and Holiday Cheer ~ Wednesday, December 6 at 4pm

The Trinity Center for Community invites you to an afternoon of conversation & holiday treats. This year has been one of positive, hope-filled change for The Trinity Center for Community and we want to share our stories, vision, and gratitude with you! Join us on Wednesday, December 6th at 4pm in the Trinity Gym to hear an update on the year's accomplishments, have time for conversation and questions, and enjoy some holiday-themed refreshments. To attend, please RSVP to Siobhan@trinitynj.com.

Contemporary Advent Evensong: A Folk, Rock, and R&B Experience Sunday, December 3 at 4pm

How is God speaking prophetically to us in our current context? Many of our contemporary lyricists and musicians have profound insights into the divine presence and can help us consider our own spirituality. On Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 p.m., we will hold an experiential Advent Evensong focused on listening to contemporary voices that share the themes of Advent. We invite you to come, join with us and listen to the divine. We will be incorporating songs from Supertramp, Bob Dylan, Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, Future of Forestry and many others. Come join with us for an hour of contemplation and reflection through music.

Community of Love!

Join in our 2024 Stewardship Campaign!

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign is focusing on gathering in community! Last week was our pledge in-gathering and we had a wonderful response! So far we have collected 62 pledge cards for a total of \$234,987. 15 of those pledges are new or returning pledgers! We are thrilled to have so many commit to supporting Trinity Church and the work we do in the community! Please join us by filling out a pledge card. They can be found on the information table at the back of the church or electronically in our email blast. Thank you for your support of our parish!

Fr. Chase's Weekly Reflection

To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens. (Psalm 123:1)

If we lift up our eyes in this beautiful church--or even look around at eye level--we will see many stained glass windows. Unfortunately, four of the diamond-pattern stained glass windows on the western side have been found to have questionable structural integrity, so they will have to be replaced. Until then, we will have to put netting up to cover 3/4 of their surface. As I write this, it is unlikely that the netting will be in place by this Sunday, so we will rope off a large number of the pews on the western half of the nave as a precaution. We have no reason to believe that the windows are in danger of failing anytime soon, but we will not take any chances. The good news is that all four of these windows are of the "cathedral glass" diamond pattern variety, which means that they are not highly valuable, and in fact, they were always meant to be replaced at some point. It will be an unusual worship experience, for sure, but as we approach Thanksgiving, we can all agree that despite this setback, blessings abound at our beloved Trinity.

Speaking of blessings, Stewardship Sunday last week was such a wonderful celebration of creating the Trinity community together. Worship was spirited, fellowship was lively, we've had rave reviews of Chris and Sherwin's latest technology class, and people responded generously to the call to support our parish's 2024 budget. We told you we were going to ask for money, and you came anyway! In fact, it turned out to be one of our highest attendance Sundays of the year. In one Sunday, we received 2/3 of all the pledges we received last year, and a remarkable 25 percent of these were new pledges! In other good news, almost 70 percent of pledges are increasing from the current year. We know everyone is doing their best, and of course some people who would have liked to have increased are not able to do so. Please know that whatever your situation, I'm so thankful for every pledge of support.

Peace, Chase+

Fall Bible Study with Fr. Chase - Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

News & Notes

Father Chase is leading a Bible study on the Book of Genesis on November 21, and Dec 5, 12, and 19 from 6:30-7:30. We are reading and discussing the story of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the People of Israel and then following Joseph to Egypt. For those unable to attend in person, you are welcome to join by Zoom. Email Fr. Chase for recordings of previous sessions and copies of class handouts.

Zoom Link: us02web.zoom.us/j/86074188222?pwd=RkEvalY4aVgxOXRoRFIKU3lsZDJldz09

Meeting ID: 860 7418 8222 Passcode: 609967

Holmdel Community UCC Zoom Book Study Invitation: Wednesdays at 7:30pm, November 29-December 27

Holmdel Community UCC has invited Trinity Church to join them in a Zoom Book Study on Wednesdays beginning November 29th. Would you like to weave contemporary Palestine within the Advent Story of Mary and Elizabeth? Kelley Nikondeha has written a fascinating book, "The First Advent in Palestine: Reversal, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope". Meetings will begin at 7:30pm and end at 9pm. Two chapters will be read each week. Fr. Geoff will be participating. If you are interested, contact administrator@holmdelucc.org. Indicate you are a member of Trinity and interested in joining.

Monday Bible Study with Fr. Geoff ~ Mondays at 5pm on Zoom

Join us for our fall study on 'Evil and the problem of Jesus'. We use material from a new book by the same title written by Gary Commins. *Evil and the Problem of Jesus* approaches age-old questions about God's relationship with evil (theodicy) from an entirely fresh angle. Presenting Jesus as a model for how to be fully human, the material crafts new ways to envision our own multidimensional relationships with God and with evil. Come and join us on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. Please contact Lindacurtiss@gmail.com to be included in the study group.

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Sunday School Next Week, November 26th ~ Nursery Still Available
We will be providing activity kits for the kids to use during services!**

(Almost) Christmas Party and Carol-Sing on Sunday, December 10

All are enthusiastically invited to join us at 2pm on Sunday, December 10 for an all-ages (Almost) Christmas Party in the auditorium/gym. Dr. Deborah will lead us in a holiday carol and hymn sing, there will be crafts and activities for children and adults, snacks, seasonal non-alcoholic beverages and lots of friends and fun!

Fall Wednesday Bible Sharing Taking a Break for November 22nd

Transgender Day of Remembrance ~ Blackbird Community Center ~ November 20, 7pm-9pm

Transgender Day of Remembrance, observed on November 20th each year, is a solemn occasion dedicated to honoring and remembering transgender individuals who have lost their lives to violence and discrimination. It serves as a reminder of the challenges and injustices faced by the transgender community. This day raises awareness about the need for greater acceptance, protection, and respect for transgender people, advocating for a more inclusive and equitable society. This year's program will be held this Monday, November 20 at 7pm at Blackbird Commons (131 Atkins Ave. Asbury Park). The program will have music, poetry, readings and speakers.

Introducing... Vanco ~ Trinity's New Giving Site!

Trinity has decided to move our giving platform from EasyTithe to Vanco. We feel that this move will benefit everyone due to the lower cost, greater flexibility, and ease of use. The URL for this new giving platform is: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z95F> If you are currently using EasyTithe for your giving, we ask that you please move over to the Vanco platform by the end of the year as we will be closing down the EasyTithe site as soon as we can. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or need help with the new site!

Vestry Nomination Forms Available ~ Due by Thursday, November 30th

At our Annual Meeting in January, we will hold elections for Vestry and Delegates & Alternates for Diocesan Convention. The positions open are: Vestrypersons (3 positions for three-year terms; note that 2 current Vestry members are seeking re-election: Gregory Curatolo and Wendy Jaghab), Warden (1 position for a two-year term; note that current Warden Carol Scollay is seeking re-election), and Delegates & Alternate Delegates (3 each) to Diocesan Convention and area convocation meetings. Read a description of each position and qualifications on the nomination forms located on the info table at the back of the church. Interested in nominating yourself or someone else to a position? Just pick up a form and turn it in by Thursday, November 30th.

Anglican Hospital in Gaza Needs Support

The Episcopal Church is asking for support for our fellow Anglicans' medical mission in Gaza, the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The hospital is treating patients under dire circumstances and faces critical shortages. Any assistance would be most appreciated. Donate through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem here: <https://afedj.org/institution/ahli-arab-hospital-gaza-city/>

NJ Gay Men's Chorus Concert ~ Saturday, December 9 at 8pm

The New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus invites you to join them at Trinity on a "Holiday Road of Carols." Haul out the holly and deck the halls; they're making the Yuletide gay! The 2023 Winter Holiday Concert is a merry musical journey along a holiday road, celebrating winter and its treasured holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah with both traditional and contemporary music. They will also have their annual holiday cookie sale. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. To purchase tickets visit www.njgmc.org or contact the Chorus at 732-579-8449.

Manchester Board of Education Action is Canceled

The BOE has canceled the discussion of a policy change that would impact trans students. No action will take place at the November 21 meeting.