

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

Happy Mother's Day! Earlier this week, in the calendar of remembrance, the Church commemorated Julian of Norwich, the 14th century author and mystic. Inspired in part by the Gospel of Matthew's image of Jesus as a mother hen gathering her brood under her wing, Julian envisioned God and Christ with powerful feminine imagery. She wrote in the Song of True Motherhood:

God chose to be our mother in all things and so made the foundation of his work, most humble and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.

God, the perfect wisdom of all, arrayed himself in this humble place.

Christ came in our poor flesh to share a mother's care.

Our mothers bear us for pain and for death;

our true mother, Jesus,

bears us for joy and endless life.

Episcopal priest and author Matthew Fox writes:

"Julian of Norwich (1342-1429) is a trustworthy and down to earth teacher about Joy because she did not live in a time of peace and serenity but during the time of the most severe plague in all of Europe—the bubonic plague of the 14th century. Rejecting denial as an option, she chose a path of depth and courage and dared to journey deep into the capacities of her own soul. She also counseled others from her anchorage attached to a simple church in Norwich.

In her deep soul journeys, she found joy—lots of it—in spite of the very bad news going on all around her. She invites us to do the same. Julian, the first woman to write a book in English, actually invented the English word enjoy. That is how important her finding joy in the midst of peril and suffering was to her. She adapted it from an old French word, enjoier, meaning rejoicing.

This reminds me of a young artist I knew years ago who lived and painted in a tough neighborhood in San Francisco and when I asked him what he wanted to do with his life he paused and responded, "to make revelry hip." Webster's defines revelry as "noisy partying or merrymaking." Another name for revelry might be celebration.

I trust Julian when she teaches about Joy because she tasted deep suffering (it is very likely that she lost a husband and a child in the plague)—but she also knows that joy is deeper than grief...Julian spells out what she calls the "five supreme delights of divinity":

God rejoices that he is our Father.

God rejoices that he is our Mother.

God rejoices that he is our Beloved and we are his true lover.

Christ rejoices that he is our Brother.

Jesus rejoices that he is our Savior."

Peace, Chase

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)

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 Friday - Morning Prayer in the Chapel

Wednesdays:

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Healing Service first Wednesday of the month

Connect with Us

CONTACT US

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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



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 10:30AM-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):

Bill Presutti (warden) Carol Scollay (warden) Brice Byham, Gregory Curatolo, Donna Griffin, Wendy Jaghab, Mary Perez, James Pillar, Andy Place, 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

Tom@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss, Assisting Priest

geoffcurtiss@gmail.com

The Rev. Gail Bennett, Deacon

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

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Siobhan Noland, Development Manager for Grants Siobhan@Trinitynj.com

Jill Osis, Director of Operations Jill@trinitynj.com

Courtney Pearson, Operations Manager Courtney@trinitynj.com

Tim Sexsmith, Property Supervisor Tim@trinitynj.com

Parish Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:

Faye Hudson Cathy Rothfuss Jack Napolitano
Jackie Campanelli Family of Lauren Lagoeiro Peggy McGinn
Manal Miller Arlene Whalen Denzel Donaldson

Stephanie Ariel Mike Mack

Margaret Jones Diane Christ Episcopal Church,

Miles Roxanne Coghan Toms River



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 readded 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:

5/12 5/13 Rebecca, Cynthia, 5/14 5/15 5/16

Paul Chiappietta Rylan, Landon, & David Clark & James Clements Robin Collins

Kayden Clark Richard Shaver

News & Notes

Sunday Adult Education: The Acts of the Apostles ~ Sundays at 9am in the Gym!

On Sundays at 9 am during May, we will discuss the Acts of the Apostles, the "sequel" to the Gospel of Luke and the continuation of the story of the early Jesus movement. Acts tells the story of how, after the Resurrection, the followers of Jesus organized, faced hardships, and shared their message throughout the Roman Empire. Reading the first six chapters of Acts is recommended, but not required. Email Chase if you would like a copy of last week's handout.

Trinity Historic Tours: Life at Trinity in the 60s ~ Today at 9am & 11:30am

What was your mother doing in the 60's? This Mother's Day, you may want to ask her. If you want to know what Trinity was doing in the 60's come to our talk to hear Gary Layton speak about Trinity's decade of love and peace (which is still our message today!) today at 9am and 11:30am. Bring your mom! P.S. Gary's mother donated one of Trinity's beautiful windows, so a timely presentation.

Order Your Pride T-Shirts Today!

We've got new Pride T-shirts for this year's parade and beyond! We are accepting pre-orders of adult and youth sizes through May 18th so that we will have them available in time for Pride. Order yours after services today or next week. Photos of the T-shirts are available with the order sheet. \$20 each.

Sign Up for Pride!

This year's Pride celebration will be held on Sunday, June 1st. We still need a few more volunteers to sign up to help decorate our Pride cars for the parade and to take a shift at our Pride Table at the festival grounds. If you are interested, please sign up after the 10am service today!

News & Notes

Confirmation and Reception on June 15

Bishop Sally French will be at Trinity for Trinity Sunday, June 15 to celebrate our parish's 150th anniversary and to confirm and receive adults and youth into the Episcopal Church. If you are ready to take that step in your spiritual journey and have not been in touch with the clergy, please reach out to Fr. Chase by next week so that he can help you prepare.

Spring into Summer ~ SIgn up for our Spring Small Group Gatherings!

Trinity's small group gatherings are always a fantastic time of friendship, fun, and delicious food! Hosted in parishioners' homes, this is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Trinity community members in a small group setting. Please sign up for one after services today!

The New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus Presents: Come Out Singing ~ Saturday, May 17 at 8pm

The New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus invites you to *Come Out Singing* with songs of defiance and hope. From Bob Dylan's classic, *The Times They Are A- Changin'* to Rachel Platten's iconic *Fight Song*, the NJGMC hopes to inspire pride, empowerment, equality, and acceptance! The concert will be held at Trinity on May 17, at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$20 for seniors and students. For tickets, visit njgmc.org, or contact the Chorus at (732)579-8449. Tickets are also available at the door on the night of the concert.

Choir Member on Jeopardy!

Choir member Sarah Gillis competed this week on Jeopardy! and emerged as the champion on Tuesday, May 6. Sarah writes that she first tried out for the game show over a decade ago and that "this was the culmination of a lifelong dream." She adds that "It was a really fun experience." Congratulations, Sarah!

Bishop Invites Diocese to Attend Christ Church Toms River Hearing

As the township of Toms River attempts to seize the property of Christ Episcopal Church through eminent domain, Bishop Sally French invites members of the Diocese of New Jersey to show their support of Christ Church by attending the next township council meeting on Wednesday, May 28 at 4 pm.

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

This year the Church is reading the Gospel of Luke (Year C). Luke's primary concerns are social disparities and how the Church should address them. Continuing with the ancient scriptural tradition around the year of the Jubilee, the Gospel of Luke provides many scriptural texts that implode our middle class assumptions about wealth and poverty. We will be using Ched Myers' new commentary on the Gospel of Luke. Ched is well known for his radical discipleship in developing "Sabbath Economics" and his commentaries on the Gospel of Mark. We will meet by zoom at 5pm on Mondays. The sessions are recorded and available to interested persons. Please contact lindacurtiss@gmail.com if you are interested.

Wednesday Bible Sharing ~ Wednesdays at 5pm

Please come join us on Wednesdays at 5pm as we read scripture and discuss how it relates to our lives now! Beginners always welcome! Questions call Joanie @ 908-216-5529

Diocesan Slavery History Pilgrimage

The Reparations Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey has created a multi-site pilgrimage, designed to be experienced in a single afternoon, that will offer participants the opportunity to learn about and reflect on our diocese's history with slavery. The resources for each site include historical introductions to the actions of our Anglican and Episcopal forebears regarding their enslavement of Africans and African Americans, remembrance of those harmed, acknowledgements of our corporate responsibility, and prayers in response to these sites of memory.

You can find more information, and the guide to the pilgrimage, on the Diocese of New Jersey Racial Justice Review website.