

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Sunday, we celebrate the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi, who wrote those words in his Canticle to the Sun. St. Francis had an unlikely life story. He was born into wealth, and in his youth went to war, but he later embraced voluntary poverty and a life of peace and prayer. He is remembered especially for his love of the natural world and "all creatures of our God and King." According to various stories, his emphasis on the unity of all beings led him to broker peace during a crusade, domesticate a vicious wild wolf that terrorized a village, teach fish and rabbits how to avoid being caught, and preach to the birds.

St. Francis preached to the animals, exhorting them to rejoice in their Creator, but they did not really need the reminder. They are perfect exactly as they are, and they show forth their praise simply by living their lives. What about humanity, our segment of the animal kingdom? Do we show forth our praise simply by living our lives? Well, the answer is a bit more complicated than for the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. Because we alone, by creation and evolution, have developed the ability to freely choose how to live our lives. And we as a human family have too often chosen the path of oppression rather than liberation. Instead of living freely as beloved children of God who share the world with one another and all our fellow creatures, we instead too often live under the shadow of domination and violent competition for resources. We could choose to live and work together, for the good of all, but we are divided as we seek to get the most for ourselves and our group.

Just as the New Testament Book of James says that true religion is caring for widows and orphans, the true spiritual journey is the way of love – when we walk this path, we find freedom in oneness, in the unity at the heart of all things. The oneness of the human family, of all Creation, and of the material and spiritual worlds.

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.TrinityNl.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. Lucille Donahue, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor Revlu@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Tom Pivinski, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor *TomP@trinitynj.com*

Jennifer Berger Brown, Development Manager for Donor Relations Jennifer@Trinitynj.com

Kris Hlatky, Casework Manager Kris@Trinitynj.com

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

Derek Bloom, Director of Community Engagement & Organizing

Derek@trinitynj.com

Kenny Miller, Property Assistant

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:

Carol Joy Jacobson Faye Hudson Michael Issacson Susanne Anderson Jackie Campanelli Bill Koegel Craig Breiner Suzanne O'Hearn Manal Miller **Barry Braithwaites** Mike Mack Karen Trout

Tina S. Stephanie Mike Krutza Margaret Jones Tom S Taylor Naudem Miles Family of Devin Brown Samantha Robinson Denzel Donaldson Janine Audet Denise & Bill Pearson Kevin Burkitt Dr. William F. Taylor **Gregory Curatolo**

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:

10/6 10/710/8 10/9 Jessica, Karina, 10/10

Gail Poverman-Kave Bill Presutti Frederick Raffetto Anthony, John, & Lucille Raiola & Mary

Christian Balletseros

Murphy

News & Notes

Let's Start an Episcopal Peace Fellowship Chapter at Trinity!

The response from parishioners last week to our presentation was wonderful. Thirteen people expressed interest and it is not too late for you to consider becoming a member of our group. If you are interested in joining us please let Geoff Curtiss know geoffcurtiss@gmail.com. The Episcopal Peace Fellowship exists to end violence — in our hearts, in our Church, and in our world — through obeying Christ's call to justice, peace, and reconciliation.

October Adult Education on Sundays at 9 am (On Break Today)

Adult education is on break on Sunday, October 5. On October 12, representatives from the Episcopal Church associated human rights organization Cristosal will lead a discussion on democracy in Latin America. Topics for later weeks in October will be announced soon.

Fall Church Clean-Up - Volunteers Needed! Saturday, October 25th at 9:30am Sponsored by the Buildings and Grounds Committee

As the seasons change, it's time for our Annual Fall Church Clean-Up! We'll be coming together on Saturday, October 25th at 9:30 AM to freshen up God's house by cleaning the pews, altar, floors, and other areas throughout the church. There may also be some light cleanup outside to help tidy up the church grounds. Many hands make light work, and your help would be greatly appreciated! Whether you can stay for an hour or the whole morning, every bit makes a difference. Let's work together to keep our sacred space—inside and out—beautiful and welcoming for all. We'll meet inside the church. We hope to see you there!

Another Opportunity for Church Architecture Presentation: October 19

If you missed the discussion last month about the various sources of Trinity's architecture and style you'll get another chance on October 19 at 9:00 am and following the 10 am service's coffee hour (approximately 11:40 am).

News & Notes

Ministry Coffee Hour Today: Stewardship Committee

Today's festive ministry coffee hour is sponsored by The Stewardship Committee! Join us after each service to meet the team, enjoy some treats and fellowship, and learn more about Stewardship at Trinity!

Guest Preacher on October 12: Human Rights Advocate Noah Bullock

Human rights are under siege with the rise of authoritarian governments around the world. Our own administration has walked away from basic international agreements on the protection of human rights and recognition of human equality and dignity. Noah Bulloch, executive director of Cristosal and a leading human rights figure in Latin America, will be with us at Trinity on Sunday October 12th. Ruth Lopez, a leading human rights attorney and a member of Cristosal's staff, remains imprisoned under President Bukele's authoritarian "State of Exception." As a result Cristosal has been forced into exile and is currently working out of Guatemala. Please keep Ruth and all human rights workers in your prayers. An article explaining why Cristosal was forced into exile is available at the back of the church.

A Conversation with Cristosal ~ Sunday, October 12 at 3pm

Come learn about the great work of Cristosal in El Salvador, October 12th at 3PM. We will get to hear directly from Noah Bullock, the Executive Director. He will talk about their colleague Ruth Lopez, who was disappeared during the night and was thrown in jail for her work for justice. We will also get to hear an update concerning the entire organization of Cristosol having to flee El Salvador and move their operation to Guatemala for safety. During this afternoon we will also learn how we can be in solidarity with our neighbor down south.

Social Justice Film Screening ~ Thursday, October 16 at 6pm

Please Join Trinity and Steven H. Besserman, Director of the film, *Only a Number*, on October 16th at 6PM at Trinity Church in the sanctuary. *Only a Number* is not only a true story of the Holocaust, but it is also a love story. Aranka and Josef, met in a concentration camp, separated by a barbed wire fence and without the aid of a common language, physically and psychologically ravaged by torture, starvation and brutality. And yet, they fell in love, and gave each other the strength and will to survive their final weeks in captivity and slavery, as their Nazi captors worked to "destroy the evidence," including them.

Next Archbishop of Canterbury Named: Bishop Sarah Mullally

Bishop Sarah Mullally has been announced as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the senior bishop and principal leader of the Church of England and the ceremonial head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is a member. Archbishop-designate Mullally will be the first woman to serve in the role. She currently serves as the Bishop of London. Before ordination, she served as England's Chief Nursing Officer, the youngest person in the role, and as a cancer nurse.

Wednesday Bible Sharing ~ Wednesdays at 5pm!

Ever want to know more about the early church? Here is your opportunity! Join us on Wednsdays at 5pm as we study the Book of Acts! All are welcome to join our friendly group at 5pm! Questions? Call Joanie 908-216-5529

Monday Bible Study with Fr. Geoff on Zoom ~ Starts Tomorrow, October 6th at 5pm

Beginning on October 6th, we will be looking at the Moral Teachings of Jesus from the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. The basis of our study will be from the book by David P. Gushee. We will also be using the Jewish Annotated New Testament.by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. It is critical in our own time for us to understand the moral teachings of the Hebrew tradition as expounded upon by Jesus. In a time when religious narratives no longer provide cultural consensus and spirituality is distorted by many, it is important to root ourselves in the basic tenets of our faith. To receive more information regarding the Zoom, contact lindacurtiss@gmail.com