



Welcome

to Trinity Church

The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

(Ash Wednesday liturgy, Book of Common Prayer)

This Sunday, the Church is invited to continue in the observance of a holy Lent, which began a few days ago on Ash Wednesday. The main themes of Lent are repentance and journeying with Jesus toward the Cross--which is the only road to the Resurrection. In its focus on penitence, Lent has often been described as an opportunity to "acknowledge our wretchedness." Archbishop Thomas Cranmer wrote that as part of the original Collect for Ash Wednesday in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a wretch as "a miserable person," or "a base, despicable, or vile person."

Undeserved misery is a fact of life for many people, and probably most people have experienced misery at some point in their lives. Yet even in the midst of suffering, people find joy and purpose. Ash Wednesday's reminder of our mortality can prompt us to find meaning and fulfillment right now. Most of us, I think, are also acquainted with feeling despicable--I hope temporarily. At some point, have we not all hurt someone we love, whether intentionally or unintentionally? Lent is an opportunity to begin again, to be reminded that life is short, to turn from any harm we have caused for others or ourselves and turn toward the right path.

Turning toward the right path is at the core of Cranmer's exhortation to acknowledge our wretchedness. That acknowledgement is not saying that humanity is utterly depraved. That is not Anglican spirituality, nor is it the faith of the early church. The second century bishop Irenaeus, who helped define orthodoxy, wrote that "the glory of God is a living human being." Our humanity is blessed by God. The Old English, Old Saxon, and Old German words that gave birth to "wretch" meant "adventurer," "wanderer", "stranger," "exile," or "a "banished person." All these meanings derive from the root word "wrekan," which means "to pursue." So, the word wretch originally meant someone either in pursuit or who was being pursued, either an adventurer or an exile.

What if acknowledging our wretchedness means that pursuit is part of who we are as humans? What if being on a quest is central to our identity? That we are, by nature, wanderers. St. Augustine wrote that "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." To be human is to be in search of the path back to Eden, to return to who we were created to be. Children of God, images reflecting the divine light of love. That is what we are searching for. We are searching not because God has exiled us, but because we too often lose our way and our identity, individually and collectively. We are exiles when we forget that the world we inhabit is sacred, and that so are we. May we, a wandering people, a searching people, find our home, and our true identity, in God's love.

Peace, Chase

Providing **healing**, proclaiming **hope** & practicing **God's unconditional love.**

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

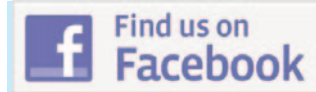
CONTACT US

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 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
Associate for Pastoral Care and Bereavement Ministry
Deacongail@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
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:

Faye Hudson	Stephanie MS	Ariel	Isla
Jackie Campanelli	Fred Tagliarini	Jeff	Those affected by the
Mary Perez	The family of Jim O'Hearn	Carol Joy	California wildfires and
Patricia Tier	Tom Marrazzo & Family	MJ	their families, friends and
Tom Dempsey	Avery Osis	Amy	colleagues
Manal Miller	Maureen	Amanda Avena	
Roxanne	Bethany Brown	Denzel Donaldson	
Linda	Trevor Wilson	Anderson	

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:

3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13	3/14
Julie, Jessica, Paxton, Theo & Crew Treen	Karen & Fallyn Treiber	Chris Tyree	Thomas Ude & Michael Soileau	John VanGuilder

News & Notes

Forum on LGBTQ+ Rights in 2025 - Today at 11:30am

After many years of victories for the LGBTQ+ community, new policies threaten to erode this hard-won progress. Transgender and non-binary individuals in particular have been the focus of many new discriminatory policies and much hateful rhetoric, but the changing landscape affects the entire LGBTQ+ community. The equality of all people is one of the values of the Episcopal Church, so we are concerned about these changes at the federal level, as well as some proposed in some municipalities and states. This is not a partisan issue, but a gospel one. Garden State Equality will lead us in a presentation and discussion of the political issues following the 10 am service and coffee hour today 11:30 am.

Episcopal Church's Public Policy Advocacy

Did you know that the Episcopal Church engages in public policy advocacy, guided by the values of our faith? The Episcopal Public Policy Network offers action alerts for members of our churches to stay informed and participate in the work of democracy. Several action items are available currently, including the Congressional budget process (the Church is concerned about possible budget cuts to Medicaid and other social programs), refugee admissions, foreign humanitarian aid, fighting HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ+ rights, the opioid epidemic, and several other areas. Learn more at the Episcopal Public Policy Network page of the Episcopal Church's website. There, you can also use the online system to contact your elected officials and sign up to receive additional alerts.

This week, as we enter Lent and begin our journey with Jesus to the Cross, we highlight the need for humanitarian assistance in the land of Christ's birth. In particular, the people of Gaza need humanitarian aid, which this week has been cut off by the government of Israel. We urge you to contact your congressional representatives, which you can do through the EPPN webpage.

Lent at Trinity

Adult Education - Sundays in Lent - "Christianity 101: Your Faith, Your Life"

On Sunday mornings during the Season of Lent, the clergy will lead a series of classes exploring the foundations of Christian faith and life. This class is for anyone, newcomer or longtime member, and it is strongly recommended for adults preparing for baptism and confirmation/reception. To get the most out of the class, please consider reading along with the class textbook, *Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church* by Jennifer Gamber. Please reach out to the Rev. Chase Danford if you would like a copy, or you can also buy your own from your preferred bookseller. Classes will meet Sundays, March 9-April 13. The reading for the class on March 16, Week 2: "Bible Stories" (Ch. 2: p. 34-56).

Stations of the Cross ~ Wednesdays at 6pm Beginning 3/12

Join us at 6pm on Wednesdays in Lent, as we journey the Way of the Cross at our weekly Stations of the Cross service, immediately before our Wednesday Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

Lenten Devotional Resources

In addition to classes at Trinity, the Episcopal Church offers Lenten devotional resources online and through your phone. Check out the written reflection and video offerings at Episcopal Relief and Development (you can sign up for daily emails), and you can sign up for daily text messages from United Thank Offering (which also has resources for families with children).

Lenten Adult Study: El Salvador and Archbishop Romero Thursdays at 6pm, Feb 27, Mar 6, 13, & 20

Join us for a four week series entitled *The Church's Witness in El Salvador*. We will gather for a light supper at 6pm and hold a discussion until 8pm. We will be meeting at the home of Geoff and Linda Curtiss. **Please let Geoff (geoffcurtiss@gmail.com) know of your interest so we can prepare enough food and you can get the address.** For more information about the program speak with Katherine Cunningham, Derek Bloom or Geoff Curtiss. The class will also use chapters from the book, *Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America and the Making of a Crisis*, by Jonathan Blitzer (paperback edition widely available).

Lenten Bible Sharing ~ Wednesdays at 5pm

Looking for something to add to your Spiritual Practice for Lent? Please join us on Ash Wednesday, 3/5, and all Wednesdays in Lent @ 5pm to follow together the weekly program outlined by the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey!

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

We are continuing to work on the Book of Revelation. John, the Seer, has been moved by the Spirit to write seven unique letters to seven different congregations in seven different cities that he is very familiar with. He has been placed in exile and no longer can travel to be with them. His concern is how are these communities being faithful to Jesus and how are they adapting to, resisting the influence of or challenging the Empire. If you are interested in joining the Bible Study or receive the recorded sessions please email lindacurtiss@gmail.com

Social Justice Coffee Hour: Oh Those Lakes! Sunday, March 30 at 11:30am

They surround us and provide us with many things, they create town barriers, offer water control management, provide recreation, and are a natural habitat for our shore wildlife; all the while offering a unique aesthetic to our towns. But what do you know about Deal, Wesley, Sunset and Fletcher Lakes? Join the Trinity EARTH project on March 30th after the 10:00 service to find out. We will have speakers who will inform us about the history of these bodies of water, how they serve the community, what is being done to maintain them and things you can do to help. For more information, see Alan Woodruff or Derek Bloom.