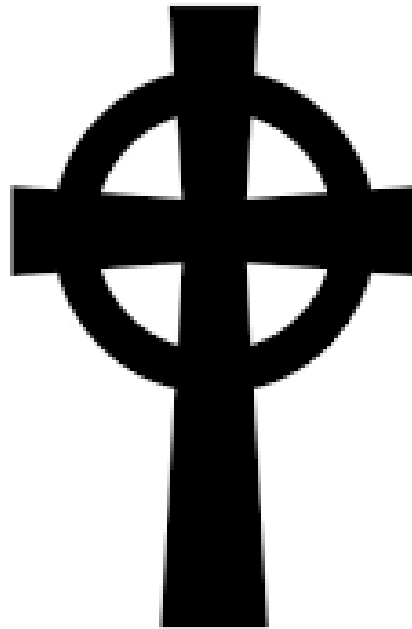


# The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

## The Seventeenth Sunday *after Pentecost*












11:00 am  
Choral Matins, Rite I



October 5, 2025

# What's Happening This Week:

*Morning Prayer is held every weekday at 9:00 am on Facebook.*

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, October 5	 11 am	Choral Matins - 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Church
	 12 pm	Second Cup Sunday	Parish House
	 4:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
Monday, October 6	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Tuesday, October 7	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
	 3:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
Wednesday, October 8	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Thursday, October 9	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
	 12:15 pm	Healing Eucharist	Prayer Corner
Friday, October 10	 7:30 pm	Piffaro Concert	Church
Saturday, October 11	 1 pm	Camerata Concert	Church
Sunday, October 12	 11 am	Holy Eucharist-18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Church
	<b><u>End of Sabbatical; Rectors Rachel and John Return!</u></b>		
	 12:30 pm	Sabbatical Celebration Luncheon	Parish House
	 2:30 pm	Chamber Philadelphia Concert	Church
	 4:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room

## TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

A very special THANK YOU to our congregation for leading us in worship today!

Simson Hui, *Officiant*

Andrew Gutknecht, *Cantor and Preacher*

Wesley Parrott, *Assisting Organist*

Jeannie Welsh & Margaret Dowling, *Lectors*

Jeff McEldowney, *Stewardship Speaker*

David Otwell, *Usher*

Marshall McMain, *Acolyte*

# Welcome! We are glad you are with us today.

## Our Vivid Vision

*This was created in 2022 in collaboration with the Rectors, Wardens & Vestry and is intended to describe where we will be in 3 years.*

The church is bursting with life. Outside the building, people are talking, resting, and enjoying the weather. Inside, people are coming and going – staff and volunteers connecting and welcoming. Families, students, working professionals, retirees and neighbors mingle with each other, finding resources they need: safety and support, education, and creative outlets. Visitors and members alike find a place to make a difference and share their gifts with each other. The smell of delicious food wafts through the air as the chefs prepare the community meal for the day. Visitors from all over the world are marveling at the beautiful interior of the sanctuary. Worshipers are laughing, singing, praising, and just enjoying being together. The delicate sounds of violin mingle with the robust organ and the echoes of voices. We are more than just a place on the Square. We are an integral part of the neighborhood.

## Core Values

### **Inclusion/Welcome**

We believe that no one should feel left out or alone. We embrace our differences and respect each person within our community. This allows everyone to bring their unique and authentic gifts to further the mission of the church.

### **Innovation**

We are not afraid of trying new things or changing when necessary. If things do not work out, we are open to re-evaluate, learn from our mistakes, and try again.

### **Collaboration**

We listen to and support one another, working and evolving together. We build upon each other's strengths and lift up each other's gifts.

### **Community Mindedness**

Church is not an individual endeavor, but a community experience. We believe that we cannot each succeed or be whole, unless everyone finds success and wholeness.

## Culture

### **Joyful**

We are hopeful, optimistic, and have fun together. Being part of this community gives us joy, and our joy spreads to others and makes us want to share joy with them.

### **Fearless**

We are innovative, purposeful and adaptable. We believe that with God all things are possible and that with prayer and connection to God we will always have enough. We are not afraid of trying new things or of failing. We learn from our mistakes. We reach out to others drawing them in, not waiting for them to find us.

### **Embracing**

We love others, because God loves us. This means that we are accepting, welcoming, open, genuine, and empathetic. We speak the truth in love.

### **Engaged**

Our connection to this organization is full of energy. We give without expectation of return. We continuously learn about the community and our neighbors and adapt our connections as needed. We all contribute our time, money and skills to make our community better.

# Choral Matins

Today we worship with a service of Morning Prayer - a type of service that has been used for millennia. The Jewish pattern of praying at sunrise formed the basis of the Christian monastic Daily Office, with its prayers or “hours” at seven times in each day. Thomas Cranmer’s revision of the Daily Office for the first English Prayer Book (1549) reduced the number of services to two - one for morning (Matins) and one for evening (Evensong or Vespers). In the Second English Prayer Book (1552), the morning service was given its present name, Morning Prayer. Unlike Eucharistic services, the Daily Office can be led by those who are not ordained as priest.

Choral Matins is a service of Morning Prayer where the choir sings parts of the service on behalf of the congregation. Like Choral Evensong, Choral Matins has been practiced in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, and parish churches for over 450 years. Readings from the Old and New Testaments along with Psalms, Canticles, Hymns, and ancient prayers are woven together into a peaceful meditation as the choir and officiant exchange a sung dialogue of prayer.

## PRELUDE

*Three Quiet Pieces*  
*I. After an Old French Air*  
*III. Dolcezza*

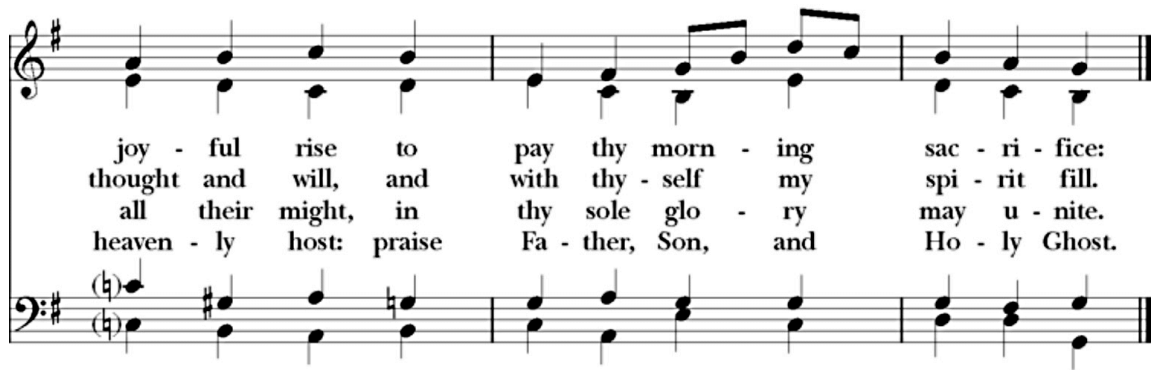
Percy Whitlock

*At the introduction to the hymn, all rise in body or in spirit to sing.*

## OPENING HYMN

1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy  
2 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new; dis -  
3 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all  
\*4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and  
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of  
I de - sign, or do, or say; that all my powers, with  
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



## OPENING SENTENCE

*Officiant* Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.  
*Philippians 1:2*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Officiant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Please kneel or sit. A period of silence is kept.*

*All* Almighty and most merciful Father,  
 we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
 we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
 we have offended against thy holy laws,  
 we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
 and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
 But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
 spare thou those who confess their faults,  
 restore thou those who are penitent,  
 according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
 in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
 and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
 that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
 to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*The officiant says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*All rise in body or in spirit*

# THE INVITATORY & PSALTER

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## PRECES

*In a setting by Jessica French*

*Cantor* O Lord, open thou our lips.  
*Choir* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.  
*Cantor* O God, make speed to save us.  
*Choir* O Lord, make haste to help us.  
*Cantor* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
*Choir* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.  
*Cantor* Praise ye the Lord.  
*Choir* The Lord's name be praised.

## INVITATORY – *Jubilate Deo*

Peter Hurford

*Antiphon:*



- 1 Be joyful in the Lord, | all you | lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his | presence | with a | song.
- 2 Know this: The Lord him|self is | God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his | people • and the | sheep of • his | pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his | courts with | praise; \*  
give thanks to him and | call u|pon his | Name.
- 4 For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is | ever|lasting; \*  
and his faithfulness en|dures from | age to | age.

*All repeat the Antiphon*

*Please be seated for the Psalm.*

- 1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, \*  
when we remembered you, O Zion.
- 2 As for our harps, we hung them up \*  
on the trees in the midst of that land.
- 3 For those who led us away captive asked us for a song,  
and our oppressors called for mirth: \*  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."
- 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song \*  
upon an alien soil.
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, \*  
let my right hand forget its skill.
- 6 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, \*  
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.
- 7 Remember the day of Jerusalem, O Lord, against the people of Edom, \*  
who said, "Down with it! down with it! even to the ground!"
- 8 O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, \*  
happy the one who pays you back for what you have done to us!
- 9 Happy shall he be who takes your little ones, \*  
and dashes them against the rock!

*All rise in body or in spirit for the Gloria Patri.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,\*  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now,\*  
and will be for ever. Amen.

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## THE LESSONS

### THE FIRST READING Lamentations 1:1-6

Jeannie Welsh

*Reader* A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the Lord has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**CANTICLE** *Te Deum laudamus*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Morning Service in d minor*

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud,  
the Heavens and all the Powers therein.  
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.  
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.  
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee,  
the Father, of an infinite majesty,  
thine honorable, true, and only Son,  
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.



Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,  
thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,  
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,  
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy saints, in glory everlasting.

*Please be seated.*

**THE SECOND READING** 2 Timothy 1:1-14

*Margaret Dowling*

*Reader* A reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God- whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did- when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do.

But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

*Reader*    The Word of the Lord

*All*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**CANTICLE** *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Vaughan Williams

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
    for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us  
    in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets,  
    which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies,  
    and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers,  
    and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham,  
    that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies  
    might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him,  
    all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest,  
    for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people  
    for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God,  
    whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
    and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
    as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## THE GOSPEL READING Luke 17:5-10

Officiant A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord  
All Thanks be to God.

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

*read by Andy Gutknecht  
written by Kirk Alan Kubicek  
from "Sermons that Work"*

*Following a period of silence, all rise in body or in spirit and chant the Creed together on a single note.*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

Cantor I believe in God,  
All the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# THE PRAYERS

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## SALUTATION & LESSER LITANY

Jessica French

*Cantor* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Cantor* Let us pray.

*All may kneel or sit.*

*Choir* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Cantor* Our Father,  
*All* **who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

## SUFFRAGES

*Cantor* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.

*Cantor* O Lord, save the State.

*Choir* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Cantor* Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*Choir* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Cantor* O Lord, save thy people.

*Choir* And bless thine inheritance.

*Cantor* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Choir* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Cantor* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Choir* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Cantor* Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Choir* Amen.

## COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

*Cantor* O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Choir* Amen.

## COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE

*Cantor* O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Choir* Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## WELCOME & PARISH NOTICES

*Vestry Member*

## TELL OUT MY SOUL! STEWARDSHIP REMARKS

*Jeff McEldowney*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Officiant* Faithful God, our source and sustainer, you call us to believe beyond what we see and serve without seeking reward. Take these gifts as seeds of trust, planted in hope and watered with gratitude. Even when our faith feels small, you multiply our offering into acts of healing, welcome, and justice. So, increase not only our faith, Lord, but also our willingness to serve—with humility, joy, and confidence that you are at work through every generous act. In the name of the one who came to serve, we pray. Amen. *Luke 17:5-10*

## ANTHEM

*O Lord, Increase our Faith*

Henry Loosemore

O Lord, increase our faith,  
strengthen us and confirm us in thy true faith;  
endue us with wisdom, charity, chastity, and patience,  
in all our adversities.  
Sweet Jesus, say Amen

*If you wish to offer a financial gift to the church, you are invited to do so during the Offertory Anthem.  
If you prefer to give electronically you can text CHT DONATE to 73256 or use the QR Code on page 3.*

*Following the anthem, please kneel or remain seated for the Prayers.*

## PRAYERS

Officiant In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Officiant For the peace of the world; that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow  
among nations and peoples.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be  
found without fault at the day of your coming. For the worldwide Anglican  
Communion and the Anglican Church of Tanzania. For the Episcopal Church,  
for Sean, our Presiding Bishop. For our Diocese, for Daniel, our Bishop. For  
our parish, for John and Rachel, who are about to return from their Sabbatical,  
for the staff, the vestry, and all who minister and worship here.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote  
the dignity and freedom of every person.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of  
creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners,  
and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected. For our  
enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or  
offended.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially Barbara, Angel, Wayne, Jessica, Tracey, Sonrin, Tony, Michael, Frank, Charlie, Andrea, Miles, Farah, Yousef, Francesco, Feras, Gwenette, Vicken, Lisa, Cari, Jalal, Maha, Heba, Mural, Murad, Angie, Yacoub, Yvonne, Jerry, Joyce, and Sonia; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that they may live in joy, peace, and health.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Officiant:* Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*Officiant* Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

*All* we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom thou hast made. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

*Officiant* Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## DIMISSAL

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING SENTENCE

*Officiant* Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Ephesians 3:20,21*

*All* **Amen.**

## HYMN 541

*Ora labora*

1 Come, la - bor on. Who dares stand i - dle  
2 Come, la - bor on. The en - e - my is  
3 Come, la - bor on. A - way with gloom - y  
4 Come, la - bor on. Claim the high call - ing  
5 Come, la - bor on. No time for rest, till

1 on the har - vest plain, while all a - round us  
2 watch - ing night and day, to sow the tares, to  
3 doubts and faith - less fear! No arm so weak but  
4 an - gels can - not share— to young and old the  
5 glows the west - ern sky, till the long sha - dows





1 waves the gold - en grain? And to each ser - vant  
2 snatch the seed a - way; while we in sleep our  
3 may do ser - vice here: by feeb - lest a - gents  
4 Gos - pel glad - ness bear: re - deem the time; its  
5 o'er our path - way lie, and a glad sound comes



1 does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."  
2 du - ty have for - got, he slum - bered not.  
3 may our God ful - fill his right - eous will.  
4 hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.  
5 with the set - ting sun, "Ser - vants, well done."

## POSTLUDE

## Cantique

Edward Elgar

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## Reflection from the Readings *from Sermons that Work*

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## About this service...

**Service:** Everything you need for the service is in this bulletin. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask one of the ushers (who handed you this bulletin) or a neighbor in your pew.

**Children** are always welcome in our worship service and we love to hear their joyful sounds and see their wiggly ways! We have books for all ages and activity bags in the back for children who wish to stay with their families during the service. We also have the "Pew Pen" in the front of the church for those we need a little more space to move around.

**Restrooms** are located at the front of the church. Walk down the left aisle toward the door with the EXIT sign. Go through the door and turn left. Men's room is straight ahead, women's to the right. If you prefer a gender-neutral bathroom, please ask our ushers to show you where this is.

**Offering:** Halfway through the service you will notice that we pass a plate around to collect the offering. The offerings we give help to support to work this church does, the people who work here, and our programs for the neighborhood. If you wish to help support our amazing programs, you can put something in the plate, text **CHT DONATE** to **73256** or using the QR code to the right. You can also sign up to give weekly with REALM ([www.htrit.org/give](http://www.htrit.org/give)).





## Tell Out My Soul

### Vestry and Property Committee Member Simson Hui Encourages Us to Authentically Share Our Skills and Gifts to Serve Our Church

I want to share what giving my time and energy has meant for my relationship with God. I think a lot about authenticity, and I define that as being the whole me, whether I'm at home, at work, or at church. When I'm at home, am I living my faith as a husband and a father? At work, am I living my faith? In my job there're ethical choices I face, and is God happy with what my company's doing and how that's impacting the world as it is?

At church my question here is am I giving the skills I was given in helping this community? Being involved always starts with worship. When I'm here, I serve as an usher. I feel so joyful sometimes, having God's eyes to welcome someone who definitely needs to be here and is worshipping here. When I was serving on the Healing and Prayer Team, I get moved by the boldness to pray for something someone is struggling with or that someone they love is struggling with and that boldness inspires my faith. Being involved here is much bigger than being involved on Sundays. This is where that whole self, authenticity piece comes in.

My job involves dealing with developing and executing strategy and usually that's in three-to-five-year increments. One of the first things I did beyond Sundays, volunteering here, and giving a stewardship gift of my time and energy, was helping the church develop a five-year plan. Well COVID happened and we had to throw out the plan. Then John and Rachel directed us, as a vestry and rectors, to develop a three-year vision. That part about my faith has been really helpful, because I do plans all the time, but to do it in church and then sitting with our vestry and sitting with John and Rachel, it really taught me a lot more about prayer and having faith that God will provide. Together you see us becoming God's hands and God's hands do big things. Big things like replacing the roof here, like feeding Philadelphia. You do it one statement of work and one prayer at a time and that constant giving of time and energy is what makes these big things happen.

One thing Rachel always reminds me of is although we use our business skills to help this place, a church does not run like a business. We can't and shouldn't just power away through with money and context. We need to work prayerfully and with faith, and the term I'm using here is Jehovah-Jireh, God will provide. This stewardship season, I ask you to make your financial gift as what you're willing to do and put that in the pledge, but also to give the gift of your hands beyond Sundays using the skills you've been given. I've been able to encounter God outside of church, in the work here of the church as well, and that's been a huge impact on my faith, but also being authentic in all aspects of my life. Thank you for your consideration.



**Scan the QR Code to make a pledge today!**

## *Pledge Stewardship Campaign: Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What is a pledge?**

Simply put, a pledge is a promise to pay later. When you make a pledge, you are committing to making regular gifts in the coming year. Pledging allows you to think about what you are able to offer for 2026 and split up your gift into smaller, regular payments.

### **What's the difference between a pledge and a donation?**

Pledges symbolize a commitment to give consistently to help support the costs, operations, facilities, and ministries of our church, while donations tend to be one-time offerings.

### **What's the benefit of pledging?**

Pledging is critical in allowing our Vestry members, who are elected by the parishioners, to create a budget for the 2026 year. Your pledges help the Vestry members determine how we are going to allocate our resources to cover our expenses, which include everything from our basic bills (electricity, water, gas) and essential operational costs; our liturgy like Eucharist supplies, our choir and organ maintenance expenses; to our Open Hearts food and clothing ministries which serve nearly 500 guests per week. ***Your pledges create the lifeline for our church to continue!***

### **What is the impact of pledging? How much have our pledge campaigns raised in the past?**

Our church expenses total nearly \$1.4 million per year. Our pledges cover about 15-20% of our operating expenses. In the past years our pledge campaigns have raised between \$185,000-\$200,000 and we have had about 50 pledgers. Parishioners give generously, and as they are able; pledges range from \$10 to \$3,000 a month. Of these, half of our monthly pledges are between \$50-\$450. ***Every gift, no matter how small or large, makes a difference!***

### **Do I need to pledge monthly?**

Many parishioners pledge monthly, and that is certainly an option. If you prefer a different pledging schedule, you can make your selection when you submit your pledge online.

### **Are my pledge payments made automatically?**

No. In the new year, you can submit your pledge payments by setting up automatic payments through our online Giving Form, or mailing in a check.

### **What are other ways I can give?**

You can give by making one-time donations online or via check, placing gifts in the offertory plate during service, supporting property projects and renovations directly, purchasing stocks as a gift to the Church, and leaving a bequest to Church of the Holy Trinity in your will. Please contact Property Committee Chairperson Susan Leidy at [susan.l.leidy@gmail.com](mailto:susan.l.leidy@gmail.com) to learn more about supporting necessary property projects. For other questions, please contact our Director of Development & Communications Inaara Neal-Shiraz at [communications@htrit.org](mailto:communications@htrit.org).

## **The Church of the Holy Trinity - Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, *Rector*

The Rev. John Gardner, *Rector*

Chiquita Anderson, Brett Oliver, Molly Hebert-Wilson, Therese Tiger, *Welcome Coordinators*

Benjamin Leiby, *Organist-Choirmaster*

Karen Majer, *Director of Rentals & Events*

Inaara Neal-Shiraz, *Director of Development & Communications*

Robyn Schnieders, *Director of Administration & Operations*

Jonah Shortall, *Streaming Services*

Demetrius Swinson, *Assistant to the Director of Operations AKA Superman*

Dr. Stephen Framil, *Musician-in-Residence*

Dr. John French, *Organist-Choirmaster emeritus*

## **The Choir of Holy Trinity**

Hannah Bashore, Nathaniel Bear, Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Samuel Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, John Miles, Mike O'Bryan, Aimee Pilgermayer, Eddie Rubeiz, Erica Rose Smith, and Julianna Smith

## **The Church of the Holy Trinity - Vestry**

Brian Conroy, Phillip Duffy, Alyssa Force, Monica Heuer, Margaret Hughes, Simson Hui, Susan Leidy, Jeff McEldowney, James Otwell, Ali Shott, Daniel Tancredi, Karen Vannasdall

**THE CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY TRINITY**  
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