Choral Evensong

for

All Souls
A Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

November 4, 2026
6:00 PM

THE CHURCH OF
THE HOLY TRINITY
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

ABOUT EVENSONG

Evensong is a sung evening service in the Anglican tradition, first defined in its current usage during the Reformation. The word 'Evensong' was first documented as 'oefen-sang' c. 1000 to describe Vespers, the seventh of the eight daily offices practiced in Roman Catholic monasteries, which traditionally occurs at sunset or around 6pm. The modern Evensong service was created by Thomas Cranmer, the author of the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. Cranmer combined the two monastic evening services of Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer) into one liturgy, using both the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* canticles as the heart of the service

Choral Evensong has been practiced in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, and parish churches for 450 years and is constructed from texts that are from the Bible or the Book of Common Prayer. 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 clergy exchange a sung dialogue of prayer.

ALL SOULS' DAY

In the New Testament, the word "saints" is used to describe the entire membership of the Christian community, and in the Collect for All Saints' Day the word "elect" is used in a similar sense. From very early times, however, the word "saint" came to be applied primarily to persons of heroic sanctity, whose deeds were recalled with gratitude and admiration by later generations.

Beginning in the tenth century, it became customary to set aside another day on which the church remembered that vast body of the faithful who, though no less members of the company of the redeemed, are unknown in the wider fellowship of the church. It was also a day for particular remembrance of family members and friends. Although those in this wider body of the faithful are no less part of the communion of saints than those persons whose particular sanctity is celebrated on All Saints' Day, the liturgical mood of the two days is nevertheless quite different, as the joy and exultation of All Saints' Day transitions to the much more personal remembrances and griefs of All Souls' Day.

Although the observance of All Souls' Day was abolished at the Reformation because of abuses connected with masses for the dead, a renewed understanding of its meaning has led to a widespread acceptance of this commemoration among Anglicans, and to its inclusion as an optional observance in the calendar of the Episcopal Church.

PRELUDE *Solemn Melody* Henry Walford Davies

INTROIT *Holy is the True Light* William H. Harris

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful,
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict:
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendor,
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore.
Alleluia.

The People rise in body or in spirit at the entrance of the choir and clergy.

WELCOME
OPENING SENTENCES

Officiant Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2*

Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God. *Ephesians 2:19*

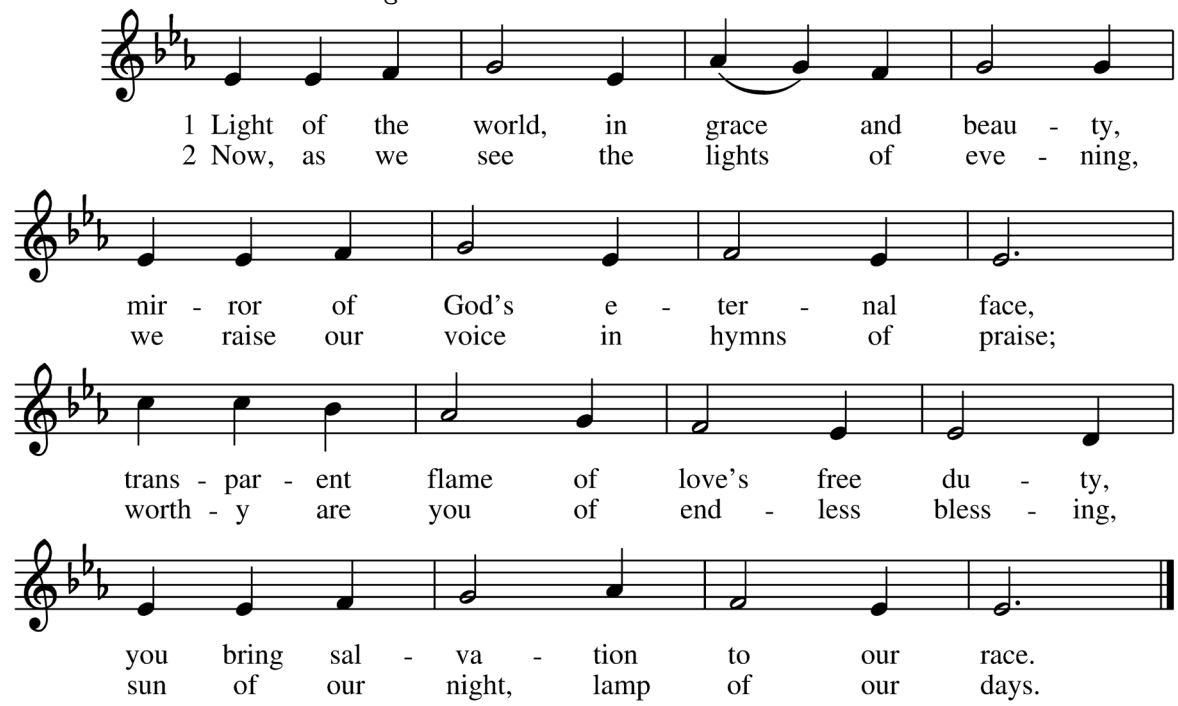
THE INVITATORY & PSALTER

PRECES *In a setting by* Iain Quinn

Officiant O Lord, ✠ open thou our lips.
Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant 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.
Officiant Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's name be praised.

PHOS HILARON – *Enriching Our Music I* - 68 *Morrison*



Words: *Paul Gibson, Enriching our Worship 1*, © 1998 The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *Morrison*, George Emblom, © 2002 George Emblom.

Please be seated for the Psalm.

PSALM 130 *De profundis* *In a setting of Anglican Chant by* Henry Walford Davies

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;
7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

All stand for the Gloria Patri.

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

Please be seated for the readings.

THE LESSONS

READING Wisdom 3:1-9 *Shreve Simpson*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.
Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

CANTICLE *Magnificat* Herbert Howells
Collegium Regale

My soul doth ✠ magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
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.

Please be seated.

READING John 5:24-27 *Juee Naik*

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

"Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man."

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Please rise in body or in spirit.
CANTICLE *Nunc Dimittis* Howells

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, *
according to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, *
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, *
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
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

Following the Canticle, all remain standing and chant the Creed together on a single note.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant 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.

SALUTATION & LESSER LITANY — Quinn

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.

All may kneel or sit.

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

Officiant 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant O Lord, save the State.
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT FOR ALL FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Officiant O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers: Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of thy Son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as thy children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever.

Choir Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Officiant O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Choir Amen.

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST PERILS

Officiant Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Choir Amen.

Please be seated

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

ANTHEM *The Road Home* Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost,
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done.
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong:
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

Michael Dennis Browne

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

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Officiant For all who lit our lives with joy, for all who have touched us with tenderness, for all whose absence fills us with longing

All **We give thanks for the gift of their lives and hold them in loving remembrance.**

Officiant For those who loved us as we are, who welcomed us without condition, and who helped us to know something of the depth and generosity of God's love

All **May their love remain within us, a blessing through all generations.**

Officiant For those who stood beside us in times of elation and despair, who kept watch with us through the darkness, and whose presence gave us courage when words were not enough,

All **May we find comfort in your mercy, and hope in your unfailing love.**

Officiant For those who challenged us to grow, who opened our eyes to new understanding, and who encouraged us to become all that God created us to be,

All **May the wisdom they shared continue to shine as a light along our way.**

Officiant For those whose courage, faithfulness, and tenderness showed us how to live in love, and whose lives remain a witness to the hope that is in us,

All **May their light shine on, and may we follow in the path of love.**

Officiant For those whose earthly journey has ended, whose souls are held in the hand of God, and who now rest in that peace which passes all understanding,

All **We commend them to your mercy, trusting that in you death gives way to life.**

Officiant For all who grieve, for all who wait and watch through the long night, and for all who long for the comfort of those they love,

All **Be near to us, O God. Sustain us in sorrow and lead us toward the light of a new day.**

Officiant For all who lit our lives with joy,

All **for all who have touched us with tenderness, for all whose loss fills us with longing, we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

Officiant In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember those whom we have loved and lost. May these candles be signs of the light that endures, of love that is not ended by death, and of the hope we share in Christ.

During this time, all are invited to light a candle in memory of departed loved ones.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Officiant Let us pray.

Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love those whom we have placed in your hands. Acknowledge, we pray, the sheep of your own fold, the lambs of your own flock, the sinners of your own redeeming. Enfold them in your mercy, in the blessed arms of everlasting peace, and in the glorious company of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **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.

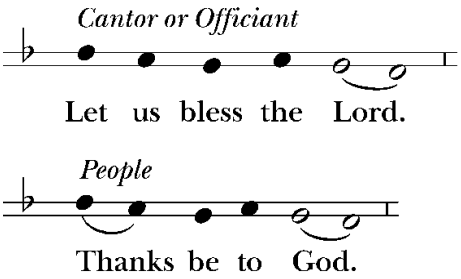
A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

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

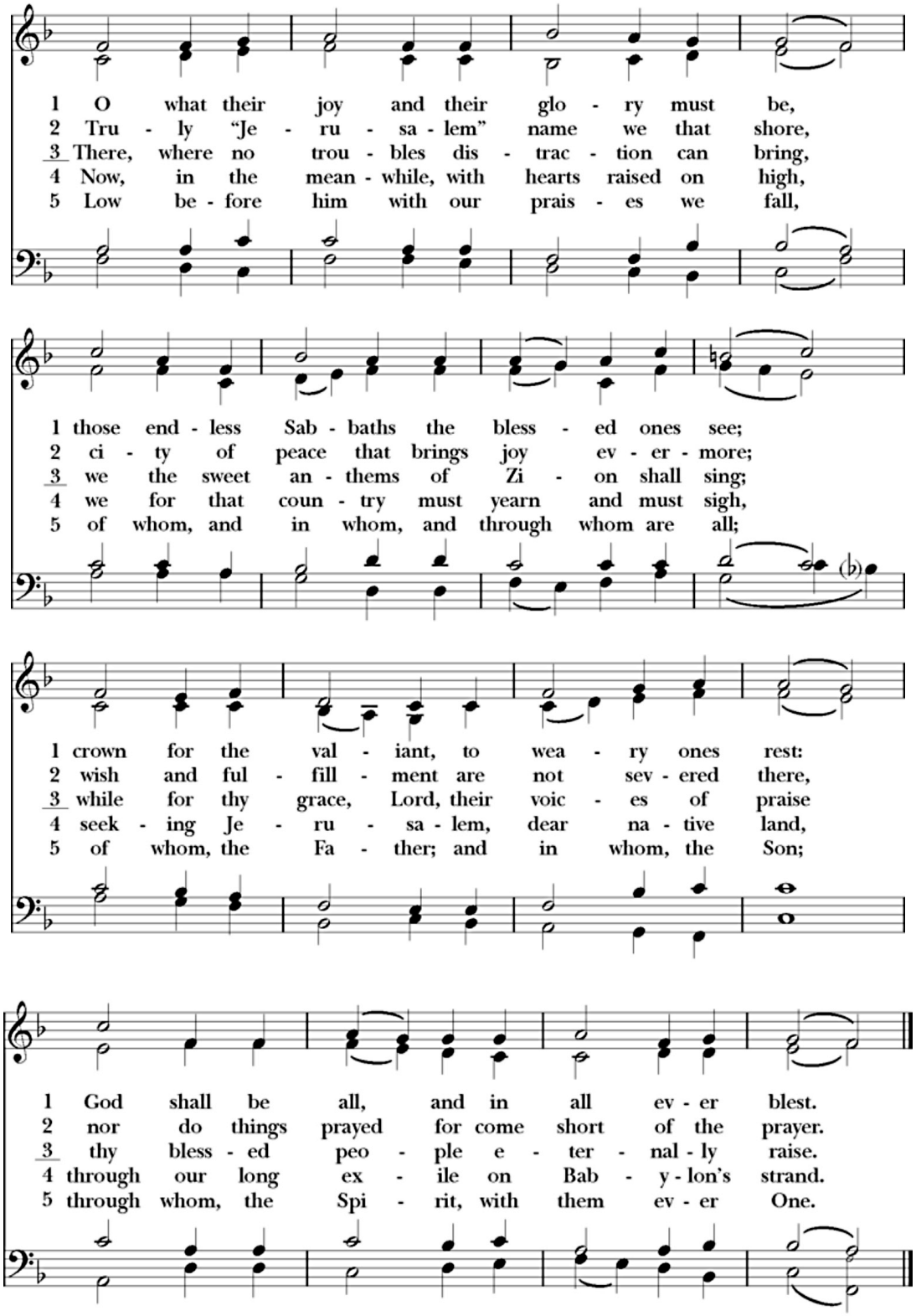


GRACE

Officiant The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

All **Amen.**

HYMN 623 *O quanta qualia*



Following the hymn, please remain standing as the clergy and choir depart.
You are invited to be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE *Meditation on 'Ewing' (Jerusalem the Golden)* Rory Boyle

PARTICIPANTS THIS EVENING

Officiant and Preacher
The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

Lectors
Shreve Simpson & Juee Naik

Usher
Rob Robinson

Assisting Organist
Wesley Parrott

✠ ✠ ✠

Mark your calendars....

CHORAL EVENSONG *for* ADVENT

Music of Weir, Smith, Sumsion, and Wood
Wednesday, December 2nd
6:00pm

ADVENT ORGAN MEDITATIONS

Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45
December 2 – Nicholas Halbert
December 9 – Emily Ballentine Erb
December 16 – Paul Fleckenstein

THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24th
8:00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG *for* THE EPIPHANY

Wednesday, January 6th
6:00pm

The Church of the Holy Trinity - Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, *Rector*
The Rev. John Gardner, *Rector*
Benjamin Leiby, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Robyn Schnieders, *Director of Operations & Outreach*
Demetrius Swinson, *Operations Coordinator AKA Superman*
Shawn Futch & Mike Whitney, *Operations Support*
Inaara Neal-Shiraz, *Director of Advancement*
Chiquita Anderson, *Administrative Coordinator*
Jack Baranoski, Boyden Gardner, & Jonah Shortall, *Livestream Coordinators*
Chiquita Anderson, Jack Baranoski & Travis Oliver, *Connection Ministry (Event) Coordinators*
Karim Campbell & Steven Maddox, *Connection Ministry (Events) Staff*
Dr. Stephen Framil, *Musician-in-Residence*
Dr. John French, *Organist-Choirmaster emeritus*

The Choir of Holy Trinity

Aimee Pilgermayer, Gail Caruso, Stephanie DeMane, Franny Geller, Patricia Conrad, Maiya Williams, Justine Hansen, Claire Dignazio, Eddie Rubeiz, Samuel Evans, Samual Keeler, Andrew Gutknecht, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, William Dowling, John Miles

The Church of the Holy Trinity - Vestry

Esha Bhatia, Brian Conroy, Alicia Depler, Phillip Duffy *(Accounting Warden)*, Alyssa Force, Monica Heuer *(Rector's Warden)*, Susan Leidy, Jeff McEldowney, Rob Robinson, Ali Shott, and Daniel Tancredi

Contact Us

htrit.org // (215) 567-1267 // communications@htrit.org
Church is Open:
Mondays-Thursdays, 10 am-3 pm; Sundays, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Open Hearts Meal & Clothing Services for Unhoused & Food-Insecure Neighbors:
Tuesdays 3-5 pm, Sundays 4-6 pm

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE