



*We are Easter People.*

**WE ARE NOT A BUILDING.  
WE ARE THE CHURCH.**



**"Nothing will separate us from the love of God, for I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

**- Romans 8:38-39**

## Letter from the Rector



Dear Trinity family,

**ALLELUIA!** Despite the inconvenience and isolation of limiting non-essential travel and physical distancing, the effects are becoming apparent - it is slowly working. Together we have slowed the spread of COVID-19, protected the most vulnerable among us, and given vital space for our medical professionals to provide the best care for those who are sick. I know this event in our lives has caused death, disruption, and disconnection, and it is important not to downplay the real hurt and pain. We have lost some truly beautiful and treasured people from our community. When the time is appropriate to do so, we will have funerals for those who have died - and one of the most important elements of the burial rite is that it is an Easter service. Even during funerals in Lent we sing Alleluia. Even at the grave we sing Alleluia.

This Easter season challenges us to see the message of resurrection in new ways that are anything but abstract. I want to brag on your Trinity staff for rising to this challenge in some truly inspirational ways. We moved in a matter of days to being an online church and every priest is now, to one degree or another, reliant on video, YouTube, Facebook, cameras and computers. Our web traffic has genuinely gone up more than 1000%! Good timing to get a new web page launched last year.

While some staff members were busy preparing for this digital revolution, others were working hard to ensure that every member of our church was contacted personally. We have a long directory and every member received a phone call checking to see if they were alright, if they needed anything, updating contact info and offering a personal touch in a time when we all feel a little distant from one another. (If you didn't receive a call please contact us as we don't have your phone number or it is not correct in our directory.)

Our pastoral care team, WOTC-Helping Hands is working hard to ensure that those who need some extra encouragement are getting it. The Easter Lilies had already

been ordered, so we hand-delivered them all to those we thought needed them most. Meals delivered, cards written, calls made... Despite being physically distanced by circumstances, we are drawing ever nearer one another through our love and care for others.

We continue to work with Trinity's mission partners for Trinity Loaves and Fishes by supporting them with the money teams would have spent had they been able to continue meeting and preparing food. Some TLF aid does continue to go out in the TLF truck, but on a limited basis, so it is fortunate that we had deep relationships with those able to keep their doors open and continue working on the margins.

There are many questions which we are now working to address: What will it look like when we are able to meet in church again? Will we be able to have TEEP this summer? Though we are still working on these answers, it is apparent to me that this community will continue as it always has to thrive by being Easter people. Alleluia!

This publication is intended to share with you some Easter vision. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

In Christ, ART+



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Andrew R. Thayer'.

The Reverend Andrew R. Thayer  
Rector

A still life arrangement of religious items. Two tall, white candles with dark spots are held in ornate, dark metal candlesticks. To the right stands a tall, slender, blue and brown statue of a woman. In the foreground, a small gold cross sits atop a book titled "The New Bible In Pictures for Little Eyes" by Kenneth N. Taylor. The book cover features a colorful illustration of children. To the right of the book is a white ceramic bowl with a decorative floral pattern. In the background, a framed photograph of a man and a woman is visible on the right, and a window with white curtains is on the far right. The scene is lit with warm, natural light from the window.

# WORSHIP

Keep watch, dear Lord.

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. Amen.**



We especially pray for those in our congregation who have died since March 15, 2020.

Mercy Amiewalen

William Barnwell

Mary Ferry Bigelow

John "Sug" Estes

Daisy Fant

Helen Kitzman

Cornelia "Dolly" Jordan

Helen Dorothy Lill

Ellis Marsalis

Howard Nelson

Charles Richards

Charles Smith

Sarah Smith

Avery Stirratt

Fran Whiteley

Frank A.M. Williams

## Worship at Home: The Common and Sacred



**Here is the church.  
Here is the steeple.  
Open it up. *But you can't.*  
For the good of all people.**

While we cannot gather in physical community, Trinity has continued to adapt worship, community life, and outreach to express our mission for the world as it is. In all circumstances, *Trinity Episcopal Church strives to love our neighbors, do justice and walk humbly with God*, while also following public health guidelines.

We as the church have not suspended worship - we pray without ceasing and preach the Good News, as often and as widely as we can.

Beginning Sunday, March 15, all of Trinity's worship services moved online. Each Sunday, parishioners are provided opportunities for worship in their homes by following along with an interactive bulletin and watching a pre-recorded video sermon and hymns. When reading through the Eucharistic Prayer, we're reminded . . .

***"Remember what the Book of Common Prayer tells us about sacraments. The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace. Although we are unable to receive the outward and visible signs in the form of communion, the divine spark is still in us and we are still very much made in the image of God. We are still, through the power of the Spirit, part of the body of Christ."***

**- The Reverend Andrew R. Thayer**

Services of morning prayer and evening compline are also offered weekly with a video reflection via Facebook Live. Clergy lead a community candlelit prayer service on Sunday evenings where participants connect on Facebook or Zoom to share prayers for healing, guidance, and gratitude, or in memory of those who have died.

Beginning on Palm Sunday, Trinity offered remote worship opportunities for each day of Holy Week through daily emails. With clergy reflections, traditional liturgical services (albeit adapted), and new creative at-home practices, our congregation was able to observe Holy Week in meaningful and connecting ways.



Parishioners created door hangers with palms found in their yard to mark Palm Sunday.



As we tried to come up with a meaningful way to celebrate Maundy Thursday, a time when Jesus showed his love to the disciples by washing their feet, each one in turn, we have a dilemma. How do we remember this moment when the body of Christ is dispersed and isolated? If you are at home with your family, you might be able to practice the ritual with another. However, many of us are alone.

Perhaps today is a good day to focus on our own feet. The feet that carry us throughout our day. The feet we rely on without thinking about them much. The feet that we may

have forgotten to tend to in the long winter months and now at home, we rarely give a care. The feet, our feet, represent the forgotten, the lowly, the hard worker, the invisible structure that brings us our food, our water, our electricity, who takes away our garbage.

Today, as you ponder the words of Christ, to “love one another, as I have loved you”, you might ponder your own feet. Give them a good soak. Dry them and rub them lovingly with oil. And consider what a blessing they are to you. And then, imagine how they can carry you today (even if only in your imagination) to offer good news to those who invisibly and steadfastly hold us up, even in a time of isolation.



Maria Elliott  
Director of Pastoral Care

*Shared for Holy Week at Home  
April 9, 2020*

### The Music We Know and Love

Each week, the congregation is virtually transported into our beloved sanctuary by the familiar sound of Trinity's magnificent organ and our dear organist, Paul Weber. Since the very first virtual Sunday, Paul has recorded more than five musical offerings per service, transcribing lyrics over the video of a candlelit church. During Holy Week, Paul set images and lyrics to the music using photos of our church family celebrating in 2019. In recent weeks, Paul enlisted some choral members to participate at a safe social distance.

Paul has also been collaborating with Chip Wilson, who plays weekly at Trinity's 6:00pm service and has a long history of sharing music at Trinity. They recently recorded Van Morrison's 'Whenever God Shines a Light on Me'.

In every instance, the music Paul is sharing taps into the smattering of complex emotions we are all feeling and somehow lightens the load. You can listen and watch the entire archive at <https://bit.ly/TrinityNOLAYouTube>.



Trinity's Organist & Choirmaster working from home, arranging music for each week's Sunday recordings.



Dr. Paul Weber  
Organist and Choirmaster



Trinity's Organist & Choirmaster practicing in the empty church.

## Creating Sacred Space

With our church home inaccessible, Trinity parishioners were encouraged to create their own sacred spaces and prayer tables in advance of Holy Week so that they would have a place at home to pray, rest, and remember. Ashley Bond created a "how to" video, which was shared with both the church and school. A collection of the holy and personal spaces that were created were shared on Facebook.



Sacred Space, shared by Dayna Gessler-Poitevent

**"Thank you for the video and suggestions for creating a Holy Week space. This is my first time putting this type of space together and I wanted to share it with you. The religious icon representation is my grandfather's confirmation program and certificate from 1933."**

**- Dayna Gessler-Poitevent**

## Holy Week in a Box

Trinity's young families observed Holy Week at home with 'Holy Week in a Box.' After creating their own sacred space, participants gathered various common household items to use in marking each special day with an at-home practice. Each day a different family posted a video to share their experience reading a piece of scripture, taking an action to mark the day, wondering about the reading, and praying The Lord's Prayer.

*Holy Week in a Box* - Copyright © 2020 Sharon Ely Pearson.



**"I am loving Holy Week in a Box. I am doing it with my grandchildren in DC every morning . . . it so special." - Ann Loomis**



Top Right: The Gunn Family, Above, left to right: The Williamson Family, The Kolb Family, The Farnsworth Family, The Rogers Family

# STEALING EASTER?

*In the style of Dr. Seuss*

Written by The Reverend Andrew R. Thayer  
Painting by Tim Trapolin

Watch the video at <https://bit.ly/StealingEaster>

**Every Church, every Christian  
loved Easter a lot,**

**But COVID-19 made our  
plans come to naught.**

**For weeks upon end  
the virus never relented,**

**It was the Lentiest Lent  
that we ever had Lented.**

In years past for our Lent we choose to abstain:  
No chocolate, no cussing, no more sips of champagne.  
Forty days would continue until at long last  
It would finally be Easter and we'd break from our fast.  
We'd gather together through Trinity's doors:  
Old folks and young folks, them folks and yours

And then, close together, with Easter bells ringing  
We sing Alleluia and then keep on a-singing.  
We'd sing! And we'd sing! And we'd SING! SING! SING! SING!

Then the kids would hunt Easter eggs- ah the hullabaloo.  
And we'd celebrate with a mimosa (or two).  
The trumpets, the lilies, the dresses how pretty  
The bowties, the anthems, even the sermon was witty.  
Everyone happy when Easter arrives:  
The sisters, the brothers, the husbands the wives.

But this year would be different from all of the rest.  
We would not get together and who could have guessed .  
That a virus, a virus, that is terribly small  
Could keep so distant, the tall and the small  
And I can hear the smallest child of them all  
Saying why aren't we going to church today...  
"Why are you taking our Easter away?"

And the answer though necessary is painful to say,  
And the church will be empty even on Easter Day.  
Why we all must remain in our own family houses,  
While the churches only occupants are the little  
church mouses?



And the church would sit empty? No singing of songs?  
No ringing of bells or banging on gongs?  
On this day of Christ's rising we'd all stay away?  
But the story's not over I am so glad to say.

You couldn't be faulted if you had assumed  
That on Easter our church would be still, like a tomb.  
But maybe you feel it and deep down you know  
It starts sort of dimly but then starts to grow.  
That Easter is coming if you open your eyes,  
Resurrection is happening what a shocking surprise.

Every person on Easter, the tall and the small,  
Could live resurrection without a service at all.  
The virus hadn't stopped Easter from coming. It came  
Somehow or other it came just the same.  
And the image of Christ, the divine spark set aglow  
Is with us always but how could it be so?

It comes when we see through God's Easter lens.  
It comes when we practice Easter with friends.  
Maybe Easter, we see, doesn't just come once a year-  
Maybe it's with us, it's near us, inside us, right here!

A way of life, way of living,  
A way of loving, life-giving.  
All things will be raised though cast down they may be,  
And all things grown old will be new you will see.  
And each one of us to perfection be brought  
By the light and the love that Jesus had wrought.  
And though we miss gathering under our steeple,  
We are all of us, yes all of us, still Easter People.



## Delivering Easter Lilies

Trinity distributed over 80 Easter Lilies to folks who were grieving a loss, accompanied by a full-color Easter bulletin. We are so grateful for all the folks who helped make these deliveries. Lilies were also used to decorate the front of our church on Easter morning, along with an 'Alleluia' banner created by Tim Trapolin.

Mother and son team, Leah and McCall Engelhardt, jumped at the chance to spread news, filling up the car with Easter lilies and delivering them around town.

**"Many thanks to all at Trinity for mom's Easter Lily. It is lovely and is always such a nice connection for her with the church. She is most appreciative as are we." - Lou Ewin and Dot Isacks**

## Where is Trinity on Sunday?

Most Sundays used to find me "backstage" setting up for worship services with devoted help from Altar Guild and Flower Guild members, and of course our dedicated team of acolytes. Now on Sundays (and other days of the week), I log into our virtual services complete with music (thanks Paul Weber) and meaningful, creative sermons from our wonderful clergy. (A personal favorite was Andy's Easter sermon in the style of Dr. Seuss.) Another Sunday special is to join Godly Play via Zoom. I would always see bright smiling faces as the children entered church after class. Now as I experience Godly Play, I see why.

Zoom Bible study groups, the Zoom Annual Meeting, Zoom staff meetings, all new ways of connectivity and reaching out in this time of COVID-19. Do I miss being at church, sharing in the Eucharist, coffee hour, and all of the in-person activities? Absolutely, but technology is Trinity's new best friend. As an old school traditionalist, I never thought I would say that! Special accolades to Trinity's incredible clergy and staff for enhancing our Trinity community experience. Truly, church is not a building. It is all of us reaching out to each other and experiencing God's love wherever we may be.

## In over 1,000 households . . .

Over the past several weeks, a team of Trinity Church parishioners and staff called every member in our 121 page directory (that's well over 1,000 households). The purpose of the calls was simple: just check in on how everyone is doing, offer assistance (be it a meal through the Helping Hands ministry, a call from Clergy, a name added to the prayer list, etc.), and to make sure people were receiving the weekly emails from Trinity. What we found was such a rewarding, meaningful way to connect with one another. Not only did people appreciate the phone calls, but our callers also enjoyed this important way of serving. It is sometimes as simple as hearing another voice on the line to remind us that we are all an important part of the Trinity family.

*Additionally, this outreach gave us an opportunity to verify contact information, as phone numbers change, etc. If you did not receive a call from one of us, that means we did not have a working number for you on record. Kindly contact us to update your information by calling Raina O'Neil at (504) 952-2941 or emailing roneil@trinitynola.com.*



Mary Sutton  
Verger



Raina O'Neil  
Director of Stewardship



# DAILY MEDITATIONS

Trinity's Daily Meditations are short reflections on the Daily Lectionary readings, written by a diverse array of Trinity parishioners, clergy and staff. During this time of isolation, Trinity has elected to send these to all members, add a music component to each reflection, and offer Saturday meditations by one of our newest Vestry members, Marsden Moran. Below is a meditation Marsden shared about his own hospitalization for COVID-19.

If you are interested in receiving the Daily Meditations, or if you'd like to try writing on occasion, kindly contact Maria Elliott at [melliott@trinitynola.com](mailto:melliott@trinitynola.com).

**Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people; I have heard them crying out and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them.**

**- Exodus 3:4-8**

By 3:00pm Sunday, I was only able to draw 30% of a fighting breath with each inhale, and that ability was diminishing by the hour. It was the end of a week long battle with what I thought was asthma that had somehow crawled back from my childhood to haunt me.

Two hours later I was wheeling onto the COVID isolation floor at Ochsner-Baptist, still gasping for each breath with my shoulders. I was expecting a scene out of a TV hospital drama: equipment littering the halls, people in scrubs rushing here and there with iPads, barking orders. Instead, the halls were wide and sparkling clean. Medical staff were standing about in twos and threes, talking quietly. The eyes of the staff told of smiles I could not see behind their masks. It was a visual antidote for the dark fear and struggle taking place in my chest.

In my room, four nurses quietly attached me to IV's and monitoring gear. From within the glow of her lighted med-helmet, one or the four, Elana, spoke softly to me by name, "I see you struggling, Mr. Marsden. You are in a good place..." Her Mississippi accent was comforting. "...you just give yourself to us; we are now your crag and your stronghold, darlin'." I could not hold back the torrent of tears. She was speaking from Psalm 31, cornerstone scripture in our family; "Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold."

Over the next four days, I made a habit of asking my care-givers how they came into nursing, and what was the experience like, nursing here, in the time of COVID.

Elana's mom was in nursing school during Katrina; she never finished, but guided her daughter into nursing. Claire had a favorite grandmother who was a combat field nurse in Vietnam; Denisha was a Navy corpsman, as was her uncle. Tina's dad was a Marine combat chaplain in Iraq. Most had volunteered to be there. All had a sense of professional and personal destiny about the work. All invoked God's role in the moment.

I began to see my place as a call to feel the heat of Sacred Ground beneath my bare feet. I was in the care of healers who drew their lineage from beneath stones in the generational river of humankind. These are folks who are given a world of pestilence and fear and see Sacred Ground. I was given the opportunity to see clearly a phenomenon that is likely quite normal within communities of healers all over the world. Heeding the call to heal, through prayer, action, and faith is not just for some. It is THE call for us all. Moreover, it is our call to overtly acknowledge the courage and faith and work of the medical community everywhere. NOW.



Written by Marsden Moran  
Vestry Member 2020-2024

**"Blessed Lord, hold up for all to know, the craft and the faith these healing artists share so freely. By answering 'Here I am!' to God's call, they draw our attention to the sacred ground on which we all stand. Amen."**

# FORMATION

## Finding Faith on Zoom

**God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**- Prayer for Young Persons, BCP p. 829**

I had been wanting to use my service in some form at Trinity Episcopal Church for a while. Last year, I was called to help with Godly Play. Trinity soon brought in the Rite 13 program for our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. I was asked to be a part and was thrilled at the opportunity.

Jane-Allison and I started this wonderful journey together sharing God's message with our almost teenagers. We quickly recruited two more teachers and together we all have grown with these kids spiritually. As a father of 2 younger children, I am learning what to expect as they grow up. You can probably imagine the discussions we get into in our Rite 13 lessons.

Once the stay-at-home mandate hit, we took a couple of weeks off. Jane-Allison and I talked and decided we need-

ed to continue Rite 13 as best we could. We missed seeing the kids! Over the last month, we have spent time via Zoom discussing the Gospel, sharing stories, talking about our week, and staying connected. Although we can't meet face-to-face, it's great to see them each week and hear what is going on in their lives in this crazy time.

Recently we talked about what good things have come out of this disruption. More free time to read and relax, spending time planting flowers and enjoying the outdoors, saying, "Hi!" to our neighbors from a distance were some of our answers. It mostly came to slowing down and realizing what really matters to us. As families, we are spending more time together in a positive way. We are having meals together at the table, watching movies with one another and spending time outside. I pray that we, as Trinity families, can continue this kind of "new normal" slowing down and spending quality time as a family unit. We all have enjoyed the Rite 13 group, and we hope we are making a difference in their lives. I know they are making a difference in mine!



Curt Flournoy  
Rite 13 Teacher

## Godly Play: Be Still and Know

Our community of Godly Play families have gathered every Sunday to participate in virtual Godly Play circles using Zoom. Despite a general weariness to hop on a zoom meeting after a long week of online home learning, Godly Play provides one experience a week that feels somewhat “normal” being that the story is shared in real time at the same time as our usual Sunday morning class.

The experience of being in this virtual circle and sharing a story with the children has been a grounding experience for me. I was having a lot of anxiety about which stories to share given the situation we are in. We typically follow the lectionary, but I wasn't sure those particular stories would translate in a Zoom environment. Instead, I let the stories choose me. So often in class, when we pull out a story that the children have heard before, there is always one child who laments about having already heard the story.

As a Godly Play mentor, I remind the children that one of the reasons we hear the same stories over and over again is so that the stories become a part of us, coded deep inside our hearts so they are there when we need them the most. Never have I understood this so poignantly.

**“This is such a gift that you have given us each Sunday. I love being able to have church time and feel like it is a ‘normal’ Sunday. THANK YOU!” - Holt Kolb**

The stories I needed the most, which I have shared with the children so far include:

- *The Second Creation: Falling Apart*, is an examination of how we “fell apart” from God, each other, creation, the image of God within our own selves, and how our relationships were restored.
- *The Exile and Return*, is a story of when God's presence was made known to us despite the Temple being burned to the ground, being forced into the unknown, and then returning home with new understanding.
- *The Synagogue and Upper Room*, is a story that combines the synagogue where Jesus taught and the upper room where Jesus shared the last supper to form a model of Christian worship.
- *The Good Shepherd and World Communion*, deepens our understanding of both when we look at these two side by side.

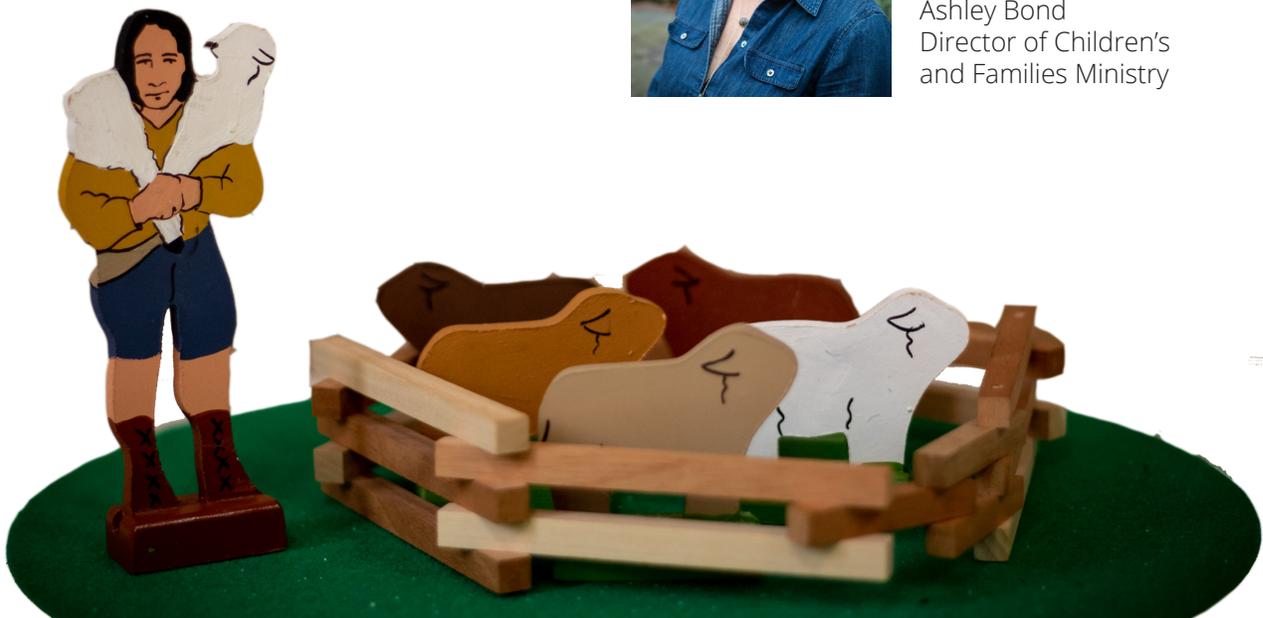
Of all the spiritual practices I have in my toolkit, Godly Play has proven the most reliable--its poetic language and gentle rhythm have carried me and given me the strength and courage to show up every Sunday for our circle of children.

## Moms Bible Studies

Trinity's two moms bible studies quickly transitioned to meeting on Zoom, and instead of reading materials that tell us about our Christian roots, we have focused on being Christian by showing up every week to check in, listen deeply, and help each other carry the weight that comes with uprooting entire family systems and learning a new way of being.



Ashley Bond  
Director of Children's  
and Families Ministry



## Sharing Church Life Online



**"I miss regular youth group due to not being able to be physically present. Online youth group is also really fun because after being stuck at home for so long, meets like these really helps to change up the new normal. I also really enjoy the pets that always seem to sneak into the calls!" - Hudson Meyn**

### Youth Ministry in the time of COVID-19 **Preparing for Confirmation**

The first online youth group gathering lifted spirits with a Holy Week themed scavenger hunt. Laughter came from every student as they zoomed through their houses to find bibles, shoes, plants, coats, and eggs. After the fun came the lesson: the shoes, greenery, and coats reminded us of the Palm Sunday Bible passage and missing our yearly procession into the church. The eggs reminded us that Easter was coming. The early church used eggs to explain that though the tomb looked impenetrable, the Risen Christ could not be contained by it. Who knew games over Zoom could teach us so much?

When Confirmation class was disrupted in Lent, I felt deflated. We had just started to build up a community of new confirmands and share our faith stories with one another. Moving our classes online and adapting to video conferencing has been a blessing. The class grew as it welcomed more youth, sponsors, and adults into its fellowship. I love teaching confirmation class online, because families are gathering together to dive deep into their spiritual practices, from the comfort of their couches. It's a class that is designed to start meaningful conversations while we stay at home in our family units. Separated from the physical church and unable to gather together in one place, we are finding new ways to express our faith and share the good news of the Risen Christ during this very challenging Easter season.

We hope to be able to gather later for another Bishop's visit so that this pioneering class can make their mature statement of faith. Many of the youth were baptized after Katrina, reminding us all that God is walking beside us wherever we are as we celebrate these important moments in the life of the church.

### TRANSITION TO ONLINE

While we are separated from one another, opportunities to be in community are maybe more important than ever. Trinity's online formation allows us to see familiar faces, share prayer, explore God's word and connect with one another. The following groups have transitioned to online since the beginning of quarantine:

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 12 Steps                 | Junior EYC            |
| Annual Meeting           | Mom's Bible Studies   |
| Bible Study at Breakfast | Pilgrimage Ministry   |
| Enneagram Group          | Rite-13 Sunday School |
| Education for Ministry   | Women's Bible Studies |
| Godly Play               |                       |
| High School EYC          |                       |



The Reverend  
Jane-Allison Wiggin-Nettles  
Associate Rector for Youth

## A Larger Pilgrimage: Faith, Hope and Love



### **Happy are the people whose strength is in you! Whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. - Psalm 84:4**

Psalm 84 has been our “pilgrimage theme song” since we began the pilgrimage ministry at Trinity 5 years ago. During this time, my husband Bill and I have co-led 6 pilgrimages: 2 to the Holy Land; 2 to the United Kingdom; and 2 in the Footsteps of St. Paul (first to Greece and Turkey and then to trace Paul's fourth and final missionary journey from Malta to Rome). For our seventh pilgrimage, this Eastertide, our group of 30 pilgrims was set to walk the Camino to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Santiago is the third most visited pilgrimage site for Christians in the world after Jerusalem and Rome.

### **Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water. - Psalm 84:5**

Enter the coronavirus, and instead of finding ourselves traveling this centuries-old pilgrims' way, we found ourselves under a stay-at-home order with people all over the world. This verse speaks of both our current collective global location in a “desolate valley” and the hope we have BECAUSE our hearts are set on not a single or specific pilgrims' way, but on our lifelong pilgrimages ever deeper into the glorious and infinite mystery that is the heart of God—whether we ever leave home or not. How we act and react, how we live into and out of the “pools” of the Living Water we know in Jesus, will ultimately define the landscape of our journey, but not our destination. That destination is already present within ourselves, just waiting to be embraced and explored through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The essence of our pilgrimage ministry is not geographical travel per se: it is about cultivating a state of heart, mind and soul that is oriented toward God with all that we are and all that we do, not just on a particular journey but always. It is about knowing and loving God more and more and each other as God in Jesus Christ knows and loves us. And, it is about learning to know ourselves better so that we can love ourselves better, as God knows and loves us. As

James Finley, of the Center for Action and Contemplation, teaching on St. Teresa of Avila, has said, “God does not love us where we think we are SUPPOSED to be; God loves us where we are.

### **For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory; no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity. O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you! - Psalm 84:10-12**

During this time, when the valley is desolate for many, may we walk with integrity and put our whole trust in God wherever we are or are not. As people of faith, as “pilgrims on a journey” who come from God's heart and are sustained by and will return to that same source, we have the sure and certain hope of the Easter victory. This sure and certain hope is that desolation, that death be it of a person or creature or thing, of a plan or a reality or a dream or...or... or... never, ever has the last word, for Love revealed to us in the Risen Christ through IS the Eternal Word. Alleluia! And thanks be to God.



The Reverend Katherine S. McLean  
Associate Rector

*If you are interested in joining a pilgrimage on the Camino during a Santiago Holy Year, in March 2021, a few spots are now available, though space is limited. Some spaces have also opened up on the Celtic Pilgrimage to Dublin, Northern Ireland, Iona and Glasgow in October 2020.*

*Please contact Kit at [kmclean@trinitynola.com](mailto:kmclean@trinitynola.com) with questions or for more information.*

## Trinity at Home



### What is Trinity at Home?

Since March 16, Trinity Episcopal School students have been learning in a new way — through *Trinity at Home*. *Trinity at Home* is a unique method of continuing to care for and educate our students when being physically present is not possible. Before we launched, Division Heads ensured students had access to a laptop or iPad, and teachers were trained on the proper learning technology. With virtual class meetings, one-on-one online conferences, and tutoring, *Trinity at Home* has been a huge success. Students are able to complete their work remotely and submit it online. School events like Daily Chapel, Biography Day, Spirit Week, and special assemblies have all occurred virtually. The faculty has been nothing short of amazing in the way they have adapted lessons, communications, and expectations to work in this new environment. Parent feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Everyone would of course much prefer to be back on Jackson Avenue together, but given the circumstances, the sense of community, learning, and growth that has happened during the quarantine has been phenomenal. This is a strong testament to the exceptional school Trinity is!

### What are Parents Saying about Trinity at Home?

"I work in education and *Trinity at Home* is by far the most impressive distant learning program I'm seeing (for keeping the community together and for actual learning for students). Well done! And it's just another great example of 'Why Trinity!'"

"Keep up the good work. I'm an IT professional with 35+ years in IT, and I've been extremely happy with the ability of Trinity to provide online structured instruction to our child. You guys are making it happen. Keep up the good work!"  
"Other schools are busy still building the plane, while Trinity is already flying! Trinity clearly has the best interactive on-line school in the city!"

### Building Upstanders!

Through *Trinity at Home*, Trinity Episcopal School continues to live out its mission to build confident, resilient upstanders on a foundation of academic excellence, moral responsibility, and faith who are prepared to make a positive difference in the world. Due to increased food demands created by COVID-19, food bank supply needs are greater than ever. Trinity responded by hosting a food drive for non-perishables that were then donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. Cards and thank you notes showing appreciation and thanks were made and safely delivered to Lambeth House and local area hospitals.



The Reverend Robert B. Hadzor  
Trinity School Chaplain

## Daily Chapel

Trinity School Chaplain, The Reverend Bobby "Mr. H" Hadzor, has continued holding Daily Chapel during *Trinity at Home*. Each morning children and families are provided with a link to that day's Chapel. The morning Chapels have continued to be shared outside the Trinity community with viewers tuning in from around the world! Parents and children have also assisted in the reading of the prayers. In these uncertain times we are glad to provide some consistency with one of Trinity School's most sacred traditions: Daily Chapel.

## How Can You Participate?

Are you interested in learning more about *Trinity at Home*? Would you like to receive Trinity Episcopal School's Daily Chapel videos? Would you like to refer a friend, grandchild, or other prospective family to Trinity?

Email [marketing@trinitynola.com](mailto:marketing@trinitynola.com) and let us know!



**LEARN MORE**



[www.trinitynola.org](http://www.trinitynola.org)



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Trinity Episcopal School has a blog *Trinity Talks*: visit <https://blog.trinitynola.org/blog>

# SERVICE

## A Community of Gifts and Needs

**"Thanks to Trinity's continued outpouring of love for those who are hungry and food scarce, we were able to reach many of our brothers and sisters in need with a brown bag lunch." - Ben Nobles**

During this unprecedented time in which we find ourselves, Trinity Church is keenly aware that the needs of others in our community remains of great importance. Trinity Loaves and Fishes actually began more than a decade ago in the midst of crisis. TLF's traditional manner of operations was not appropriate for observing mandated social distancing measures, but one volunteer superstar, Ben Nobles, together with community parnters, served over 1,700 meals during the first three weeks of quarantine. The meals were sent to some of TLF's beloved partners such as Hope House, Project Lazarus, the Rebuild Center, and Mercy Endeavors. Ben and Beth also served many of the homeless populations living under the interstate, and in the St. Claude and French Quarter neighborhoods.

In this time of crisis, TLF has forged a new partnership with Culture Aid NOLA, with TLF program director Aaron Taylor providing volunteer management. Culture Aid Nola is a relief effort of several New Orleans area nonprofits serving culture and hospitality workers. Trinity members have stepped up in supporting this partnership, donating Easter candy and various grocery items. In recent weeks, TLF has ramped up production of to-go bags with emergency groceries, assembled and distributed by small groups of volunteers.

In addition, the Mission Commission of Trinity has met via Zoom, and is ready to resume working with the many different ministries and non-profits that we have traditionally partnered with, as soon as everyone is back up and running. As always, we are so grateful for your prayerful support.

**#LoveYourNeighbors  
#KindnessIsNotCanceled**



Aaron Taylor  
TLF Program Director



The Reverend John M. Pitzer  
Associate Rector for Outreach



Volunteer Ben Nobles, serving meals , adhering to social distancing.

Dear Trinity,

As one of your two deacons, I have been equally frustrated about not being able to participate in person at church with all of you and in my outreach ministries. One of my primary ministries has been as a volunteer chaplain at Bridge House over the past 11 years. Bridge House has also been closed to those not residing there and so I have not been able to do my regular Monday night ministry work. I have stayed in touch and had a few calls from Bridge House clients over these past weeks just looking for some spiritual guidance during these times. I have reached out to many of our parishioners via telephone calls to just check in and see if I or Trinity can be of any help. I have appreciated hearing the voices of those who answered my calls and felt the joy in just connecting for a short time.

My other outreach ministries are also shut down during this quarantine time and those whom I serve with are also anxious to get back in the saddle with these ministries. I don't know what returning to church and my ministry work will look like when we are permitted to return. Much like the HIV/AIDS virus of the eighties, the medical professionals just don't know all of the characteristics of this virus yet and so we waded through these waters of uncertainty with trepidation and caution, not wanting to make matters worse but yet wanting to return to some type of normalcy. There still

is no vaccine for HIV, but there are antiretrovirals that have allowed people to bolster their immune systems and continue a normal life. Perhaps COVID-19 will be the same. Perhaps a vaccine will be discovered. Either way, our lives have been changed forever. Whatever the future of our physical interactions become, we will know the power of a virus and will have to change at least some of our connections. I believe God works through all things to His good and, much like the aftermath of Katrina, I believe God will bring good from this disaster. I trust that He will lead us to a better way of serving Him through our fellow man/woman. I pray for all of you, for all of America, and the world that God's Will will be done, and that we will learn to serve God through others. Amen.



The Reverend Jay Albert Deacon



A note from our friends at Project Lazarus, giving thanks for donated meals.



Delivering grocery bags in New Orleans East with community partner, Culture Aid NOLA. Serving while "festing in place" listening to WWOZ's jazzfest inspired broadcast.

What a challenge and honor it has been to facilitate the enormous transition of moving Trinity's very intimate, public and high-touch presence to life online. I am so thankful to my amazing co-workers and larger church family for their tireless work and creativity in this collaborative effort. It is a blessing to serve beside each of you.

**"Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."  
- Ephesians 3:20**



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# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The COVID-19 virus has upended every facet of our lives and has required each of us to think of how to do “church” in a whole new way. Your continued giving throughout this crisis has helped to make our virtual platforms possible - Zoom meetings, Facebook live events, weekly emails, streaming sermons, and continual updates to the new Trinity Church website - are some of the ways we’ve adapted how we communicate with one another, worship together (while apart), and stay connected. Without your support, this would not be possible.

## TRULY, THANK YOU!

We continue to need your support as our operations at Trinity have not diminished and the needs within our community continue to grow. As you are able, kindly continue making your contributions in the absence of the Sunday offering plate. We are most grateful for your financial support as we navigate new ways to connect with each other in these challenging times.



GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION

**Tuesday, June 2**

([www.givenola.org/trinity-church](http://www.givenola.org/trinity-church))

- **Gifts by check** may be mailed to the Stewardship Office, Trinity Church, 1329 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130
- **Give Online** at [trinitynola.com](http://trinitynola.com) using a credit or debit card
- **Text-to-Give:** Text any amount to (504) 217-2015
- **Auto Draft:** Print and Complete the Automatic Bank Draft form on the website, and mail to the Stewardship Office to set up auto draft from a bank account.