



The Messenger

TRINITY Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

The Rev. Dr. Timothy H. Graham, Rector

The Rev. Andrew C. Blakemore, Associate Rector

Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

Easter 2026

From the Rector

The Rev. Dr. Timothy H. Graham

Why is Holy Week so important?

In just a few days we will celebrate the greatest feast of the church year, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, commonly called Easter Day. At Easter we put forth our best on this most important feast. We wear our finest clothes to worship. The church is adorned with beautiful flowers. The silver and brass fixtures in our church are polished and bright, and our music in worship is glorious. We celebrate the great gift that God has given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Because of Easter, we have the promise of eternal life.

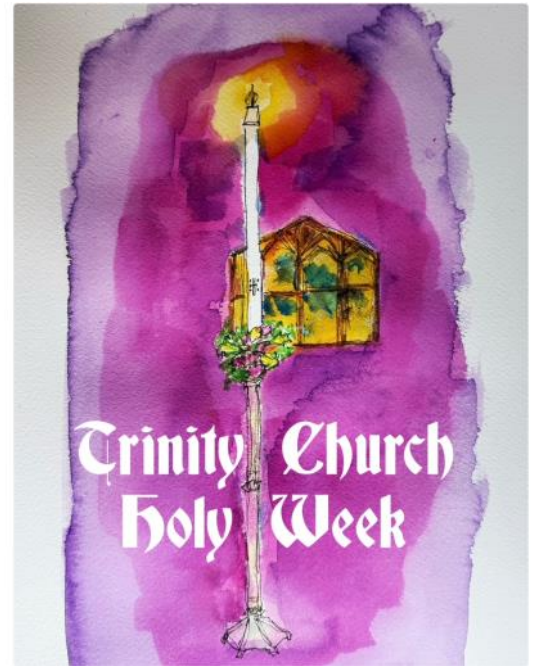
Because this day is the most important day of the whole year, it makes sense that we prepare for it. Not only do we invest time in preparing our church building and designing an uplifting worship experience, we also prepare our hearts, each of us individually. In order to really understand the gift of Easter, we need to really understand more of the story of the passion of Jesus Christ. We need to hear about the events that lead to his crucifixion, we need to hear about his time on the cross, we need to hear about his last night with his disciples before he was betrayed. There are so many important lessons in these liturgies and in these sacred scripture texts that give meaning to our lives.

For centuries Christians have met together in the three days leading up to Easter to walk that journey with Jesus toward resurrection. We invite you to enter deeply into that story, to feel more connected to Jesus, to be able to more faithfully and joyfully proclaim the good news on Easter Day.

The great gift of God to us at Easter deserves a faithful response. Please join us on Maundy Thursday in the chapel at 5 o'clock and Good Friday in the chapel at 5 o'clock. On Saturday, we will celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter at 5 o'clock at Linwood Cemetery. And then, of course, be present with us on Easter Day, Sunday morning, at either 8:30 or 10:30 to joyfully celebrate our great Pascal feast.

God bless you all.

Father Tim



Building a Spirit-empowered community that serves and celebrates Christ.

*"Let my prayer come before thee:
incline thine ear unto my cry;"*
Psalm 88:2

**In Our Prayers:
Parishioners**

Claire Berry
The Blanchard Family
Gabe Clouser & Family
Jack & Peggy Collins
The Family of Joyce Curry
Kit Duncan
Eliza Ewing
Sydney Flournoy
Allan Goldsmith
Glenn Haskell
Eve Marcus
Sam Nesbitt
Burnie Quick
Meta Rickard
Sandra Rodgers
The Romey Family
Judith Rothschild
Dorothy Faye Smith
Fleur Stearns
Kevin Topping
George Wade
David Williams

**If you know of a parishioner
who is in the hospital, has had
a child, or is facing some crisis,
please let the Parish Office
know so our Parish family can
respond.**



Friends

The Barria Escobar
Family
Bill Berry
Nan & Rick Boyett
Sarah Brown
Amanda Bryan
Jim Buntin
Leandra Burke
Garrett Tante Burns
Wayne Cartledge
Dana Cason
Phillip Clark
James Cochran
The Family of
David Cummings
Fenton Dixon
Dale Epperson
Jimmy Farr
Connie Forrest
Sherry Green
Larry Gross
Billy Harper
Angie Hart
Milton Jones
Christi Kernodle
Kim Kimbrough
Buford King
Chuck Lewis
Carol Martin
Steve Melton
Tatum Norris
Ruth Pattison
Jay Pease
The Family of Rudi
Cumiskey Pierson
Andrew Pillar
Paul Rickard
Becky Rumer
Jim Sanregret
Hadley Scott
Ruthie Searle
Grady Simpson
Mary Urbina
Irma Versluijs
Bryan Waters
Sam Wells
Howard Willis

A Letter from the Senior Warden



As your new Senior Warden, I am trying to learn as much as I can about how our committees work. Recently, I had the privilege of walking through all the things the Altar Guild does for our church with committee chair, Susan Perkins. It truly is amazing what they do for us. They prepare the altar each week, setting out clean linens according to the church season, polishing and setting out the communion vessels, and anything else that is required to prepare our altar for worship. I am so grateful for this dedicated group who perfectly execute each Sunday like we all expect. The work of the Altar Guild is a main reason why our Sunday Service is so beautiful.

When I asked Susan why she had been such a dedicated committee member for so many years, this is what she shared:

"I have served on the Altar Guild for over twenty years. It is a privilege to prepare our worship spaces for communion, to support our clergy by caring for the sacred elements, and to serve our members as they experience baptisms, weddings, and funerals in their lives. It is also a distinct privilege to care for and preserve our beautiful, historic worship spaces. The Altar Guild membership is at an all-time low. Please consider joining us in this vital ministry."

Thank you Altar Guild Committee!

Like anything in life, the more we get involved, the more gratifying it becomes to us. The Altar Guild Committee would be grateful for additional volunteers, and if this ministry interests you, please contact Susan Perkins at 706-329-9280.

Rem Houser



First Quarter Financial Report

As we approach the end of the first quarter of 2026, this is an appropriate time to share with our members some important financial information and concerns.

Pledges

So far in 2026 we have received 137 pledges totaling \$859,000. This compares to 2025 when we received 144 pledges totaling \$867,000. While the total pledge amount is near the same, the concerning figure is the number of pledge units. This year we lost several pledge units because of parishioners moving away or death. We did receive several first time pledges, but there are also several families who pledged in 2025 that have not yet pledged in the current year. We need more families at Trinity to make a financial pledge. If you have not made a pledge for the current year, or have never made a pledge to Trinity, we need a commitment from you. Pledging gives us the ability to have a stable and workable operating budget. A pledge is a promise, but it is not a legally binding agreement. A pledge can be amended any time during the year for any reason. Pledging is a way to feel connected to your church, and it is also a deeply spiritual matter, your response to God for your blessings.

Operating Budget

While we still are hopeful to receive more pledges for the current year, the operating budget in place for 2026 now totals \$1,040,000. This is a combination of pledges and other anticipated income: interest, fees and special gifts. In 2025 our total operating budget was \$1,001,056. The almost \$40,000 increase in total budget from the previous year represents increased expense in utilities and property insurance, along with cost of living increases for our staff. Salary adjustments are not made every year. But the increase this year was much needed. This current year we have an anticipated total budget shortfall of \$83,500. We need to close this gap, either by additional pledges, increases to current pledge amounts by some of our current pledging members, or some special gifts. Your Finance Committee members, Vestry and our Parish Administrator work diligently to use our resources wisely. It is very difficult to trim expenses from our budget because most of our expenses are fixed: building maintenance, insurance, and salaries.

Request for your help

So far this year our pledged income and expenses are on track. The major concern is that we need more pledges and we need more pledged income to address the budget shortfall of \$83,500. Please prayerfully consider helping your church with this financial need.

First Quarter Financial Report Continued

Special Maintenance Projects

For the last year our Building Committee, Vestry and Finance Committee have been gathering information about some significant building repairs that need attention. Some of those projects have been recently completed, some are taking place now, and some will take place in the next quarter of this year. We are repairing sections of our roof where there have been leaks, we have replaced several very old heat and air conditioning units. The project that will soon take place is addressing water damage under the nave. There is a hole in the foundation of the nave, so when we experience heavy rain, water pours into the basement area of the nave and office building. This repair work will be significant and will require some excavation work in the courtyard. These three projects combined will total nearly \$250,000.

Thank you for your continued participation in the life of this church. May God bless us all.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Graham, Rector
Mr. Rem Houser, Senior Warden
Mr. Elliott Waddell, Treasurer

Private Confession During Holy Week



Private confession, also called Reconciliation, is an opportunity for more thorough self-examination and reflection on the situations and habits in our lives that have been obstacles to our deeper walk with God. Making a private confession to a priest, sharing in a kind word of counsel from the priest, and receiving absolution and pardon from God can free us from a lingering sense of sin. The secrecy of a confession is morally absolute for the priest who hears your confession.

Private confession is always available for all who desire it, but Holy Week is an especially appropriate time to make a confession, as we await the joys of Easter. Throughout Holy Week, Father Tim and Father Andy will be available to hear private confessions. Even if you have never done so before, you are invited and encouraged to contact a priest and schedule a time to meet one-on-one during Holy Week to engage in this ancient spiritual practice.



Holy Week at Trinity 2026

Palm Sunday - March 29

- 8:30 AM** Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist Rite I with Liturgy of the Palms & dramatic Gospel reading

Ecumenical Services March 30 - April 2

Monday through Thursday at noon, at First Presbyterian Church (1100 First Ave.)

In four brief noon services, Trinity will join daily with other downtown churches in Columbus to sing, pray, and hear the Word with our neighbors and siblings in Christ.

Maundy Thursday - April 2

- 5:00 PM** Maundy Thursday Service (Chapel)

The Paschal Triduum begins with Maundy Thursday, recalling the events of the Last Supper where Jesus instituted the sacrament of his Body and Blood and commanded his followers to continue in this practice and to love another as he loves us. There will NOT be a footwashing at this year's Maundy Thursday service. Following the service until 6:30 p.m., the Night Watch is an optional period of silent prayer, recalling the time Jesus and his disciples spent in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday - April 3

- 5:00 PM** Good Friday Liturgy (Chapel)

On Good Friday we recall Christ's passion and his death on the cross. Trinity will begin this service by reading the stations of the cross and conclude with a solemn service of prayer and communion from the reserved sacrament.

The Great Vigil of Easter - April 4

- 5:00 PM** The Great Vigil of Easter Linwood Cemetery 721 Linwood Blvd.

The Great Vigil of Easter begins with the lighting of a new Paschal candle. The church recalls the course of salvation history from Creation to Resurrection, joyously renewing our baptismal vows and greeting the coming of Easter. To enable greater participation, Trinity's simplified vigil service will take place indoors and end before dark.

Easter Sunday - April 5

- 8:30 AM** Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
- 10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
*with instrumental music and incense
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt**
Following the 10:30 Service