



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

trinityatlanta.org

FEBRUARY 2021

TRINITY TIMES

LENT: 40 DAYS

A SEASON OF REFLECTION,
RENEWAL, & PREPARATION



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SUNDAYS @ 9 & 11 AM



OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

By Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton
Interim Senior Pastor

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ith this issue, the Trinity Times returns from quarantine. After its Spring 2020 issue, the world changed and so did our life together as a church. Trinity had steadfastly resisted livestreaming its worship services and

developing a robust online, ‘virtual’ identity; yet, in a matter of 4 days, your staff maneuvered from shock to Sunday, bringing worship into your homes. We have been operating ‘remotely’ ever since, learning by trial and error how to improve our video and livestream platforms. It has been hard on you. It has been hard on us. There is a reason God turned to incarnation for the fullest expression of divine love! In this season of prolonged physical separation, of required ‘social distancing,’ we have deepened appreciation for incarnation as more than theological doctrine. Incarnation is a deeply meaningful personal and communal practice. Our embodied life together is the fullest way to do and ‘be’ church.

Still, we have been discovering creative ways to keep our “loving connections,” as this year’s Commitment theme expresses it. The worship of God continues weekly in two varied online formats. Mission support with our partners remains strong. Education and special events have continued, including an exploration of racism as a continuing sin in our nation. Pastoral care and memorial services have been altered so that people may be supported safely in times of illness, death, and grief. Committees and small groups have found a lifeline through Zoom—a word and way of meeting I did not know existed before March 2020. Music of Healing and Hope, Midweek Messages from pastors and members, drive-thru farewells and hellos with barbecue included, a Drive-Thru Christmas Pageant with all the familiar characters, and even a virtual Carol Sing have sustained us in a lonely and disorienting time. I have asked Chris Betts to help organize the documentation of this extraordinary time. Future members of Trinity Presbyterian Church will want to know how we responded to and remained faithful during this global pandemic.

It has not been the year you and I had imagined, but we have made good progress nevertheless in the interim work set before us. There is still substantive work ahead as we continue to address issues and discern new opportunities for a post-pandemic church. The season Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Lent is a season of introspection, repentance, and seeking

Pastor's Message

forgiveness from God and one another as we hope to turn toward reconciliation. This is our work as Lent begins through a study of Trinity's past Mission Statements. These statements have expressed the best of who we believe God has called us to be and what God has called us to do in and for the world. As Lent begins, we visit our past in order to reflect on our present life together in this interim time. Together, we may confess our failures, celebrate our faithfulness, and seek the way forward in honesty, humility, and hope. No pastor or congregation will ever achieve perfection. What is essential is to speak of ourselves truthfully, to extend grace to one another in our imperfections, and to name our shared aspirations as we move forward. May this be our Lenten journey together.

Onward in faith and hope,
Kim

Table of Contents

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 04 | Lenten Spiritual Practice |
| 07 | Children's Sunday |
| 08 | Discover Trinity |
| 10 | New Members |
| 12 | Adult Church School |

40 THINGS IN 40 DAYS

The season of Lent is often seen as a time to give up a vice or indulgence or to take on a spiritual discipline such as fasting or meditation. But what if we looked beyond personal disciplines this Lenten season and chose instead to serve others in our community?



Spiritual Practice For Lent →

Join us in this Spiritual Practice, February 17-April 3, as we try something new to help us focus on the way we live out our faith in the world. Together with Agape Youth & Family Center, we will provide weekly grocery boxes for the 95 Agape Community families.

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ach day of Lent, as you collect items (listed on page 6) into the box/basket in your home, think of the ways you are loving your neighbor.

Even when we can't be together, we can still care for our siblings in Christ. On Easter (April 4th) celebrate our risen Lord by reflecting on what you have collected. It is not just a box of food – it is a message of hope and love that we will deliver to families in the Agape Community.

Bring to the church office during the first week of April (April 6-8) and we will deliver each collection to an Agape family or another organization that will ensure a family receives it. Let us come together and bless others who may need an extra gift this year! (If you would like to participate but cannot deliver to the church, please let Rev. Lucy Strong know and we will arrange to pick up your items from you.)

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For more information, contact Rev. Lucy Strong,
lstrong@trinityatlanta.org

Click here to let us know if you are considering joining us on this journey.



| GET STARTED | FILL YOUR CRATE | DONATE |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Find a medium to large sized container or box in your home and put in a place where you can access it throughout Lent. Print a copy of the calendar on page 6 and tape to your box or fridge so you can refer back.</p> | <p>Each day during Lent add your donations to your container. (brands do not matter/size does matter). Remember to check expiration dates on items before donating (no expiration date prior to May 2021).</p> | <p>After Easter, drop off donations at the church. Check the weekly e-newsletter for drop off information as it becomes available.</p> |

40 THINGS IN 40 DAYS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | February 17 ASH WEDNESDAY Corn 15 oz. | February 18 Cut Green Beans 15 oz. | February 19 Black Beans 15 oz. | February 20 Pinto Beans 15 oz. |
| February 21 BONUS ITEM: Paper Towels | February 22 Can of Soup 19 oz. | February 23 Black Beans 15 oz. | February 24 Pinto Beans 15 oz. | February 25 Cut Green Beans 15 oz. | February 26 Corn 15 oz. | February 27 Can of Soup 19 oz. |
| February 28 BONUS ITEM: Trash Bags | March 1 Bag of Rice 32 oz. | March 2 Flour Tortillas 10 ct | March 3 Ramen 3 oz. | March 4 Ramen 3 oz. | March 5 Salt/Pepper in shaker | March 6 Cooking Spray |
| March 7 BONUS ITEM: Laundry Detergent | March 8 Black Beans 15 oz. | March 9 Pinto Beans 15 oz. | March 10 Cut Green Beans 15 oz. | March 11 Corn 15 oz. | March 12 Can of Soup 19 oz. | March 13 Cooking Oil |
| March 14 BONUS ITEM: Trash Bags | March 15 Bag of Rice 32 oz. | March 16 Flour Tortillas 10 ct | March 17 Ramen 3 oz. | March 18 Ramen 3 oz. | March 19 Salt/Pepper in shaker | March 20 Cooking Spray |
| March 21 BONUS ITEM: Laundry Detergent | March 22 Pinto Beans 15 oz. | March 23 Black Beans 15 oz. | March 24 Cut Green Beans 15 oz. | March 25 Corn 15 oz. | March 26 Can of Soup 19 oz. | March 27 Cooking Oil |
| March 28 PALM SUNDAY BONUS ITEM: Paper Towels | March 29 Bar of Soap | March 30 Toothbrush | March 31 Toothpaste | April 1 MAUNDY THURS Bar of Soap | April 2 GOOD FRIDAY Toothbrush | April 3 Toothpaste |
| April 5 EASTER | | | | | | |

[Click here](#) to let us know if you are joining us on this journey.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

By Elizabeth Davis
Director of Children & Family Ministries

Children Pre-K (4 years old) – 5th grade will lead us in worship on Sunday, February 28 at each worship service offered.

In Sunday school, our children are learning about the Beatitudes from Matthew 4:23 – 5:12. Select 5th graders will reflect from this theme to share the message, while others write, create and lead us through prayer, scripture and music. If the discussions in Sunday school have alluded to anything, we are in for a treat! Reflected best by one 5th grader, “We'll be just like Jesus giving the Sermon on the Mount!”

The 9:00 am and 11:00 am services will be pre-recorded. Weather permitting, the 5th graders will give their sermon's in-person at the 3:00 pm outdoor service.

Stay Up To Date

Website: trinityatlanta.org/children
Facebook: CFM Trinity Presbyterian Church
Instagram: @cfmtpc



Through church school, worship education classes, mission opportunities, and special seasonal events, we nurture and encourage a growing faith in God.





ENGAGEMENT

By Sarah Wikle
Director of Engagement

Most people end up joining something because someone invited them. Now, more than ever, we long for togetherness, we long to heal the world, we want to connect with God and each other.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND TO GROW IN FAITH.

Think about the people you know that might like an invitation to something Trinity. There are so many ways to connect at Trinity – whether it is a church school class, an opportunity to serve in the community, a small group, online worship, or listening to Music of Healing and Hope – think about how you might share with someone what you love about Trinity. If you want to find ways to be more engaged at Trinity, consider yourself invited! Contact **Sarah Wikle** to discuss ways to deepen your relationship with this community of faith.

For more information,
visit trinityatlanta.org/visit or contact
Sarah Wikle at swikle@trinityatlanta.org

Discover Trinity

One of the obvious ways to get to know Trinity is through the potential new member series, Discover Trinity. The Discover Trinity series is for visitors who know they want to join Trinity, and visitors who just want to get to know Trinity better before making that decision. No matter where someone is on their journey of faith, there is a place for you in this community of faith. We are planning a Discover Trinity for later this spring and we hope that visitors will accept an invitation from you and visit us.





NEW MEMBERS



Last October's Discover Trinity series welcomed new members David and Karen Bain (children, Andrew and Sarah), Barbara and Dave Heitzenroder, Tori Konrad, and Catherine Warren.

For more information about becoming a member of Trinity Church, contact Sarah Wikle at swikle@trinityatlanta.org.

1

Karen and David Bain

Children, Andrew and Sarah Bain

David joined by Profession of Faith; Karen and their children, Andrew and Sarah, joined by baptism. Both children attended Trinity Early Learning Center and the Bain family is engaged in CFM activities. Karen and David both practice law; Karen served on the board for the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network. Third-grader Andrew and Kindergartener Sarah both attend Morris Brandon Elementary.

2

Catherine Warren

Catherine joined by letter of transfer from Decatur Presbyterian Church (Decatur, GA). Catherine served as Young Women's Representative on the board of Presbyterian Women. She also served as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Peru through the PCUSA's World Mission office. In February 2020, she participated in Trinity's mission trip to Cuba. She also is in Trinity's Young Adult Small Group. Catherine lives in Midtown and works as development coordinator for the Latin American Association.

3

Barbara and Dave Heitzenroder

Having moved to Atlanta this past July, Barbara and Dave joined by letter of transfer from Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. David served as a deacon and Barbara served as a Stephen Minister, a trustee and an elder. The Heitzenroders have been visiting Trinity for 27 years – attending worship with their daughter and son-in-law, Christine and David Quillian, and their grandchildren, Catherine, Margaret, and Elizabeth. Barbara and Dave are retired investment advisors.

4

Tori Konrad

Tori joined by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Huntington, West Virginia. At First Presbyterian Huntington, Tori served on the international mission team, youth and college advisory committees, and the elder nominating committee. She is active in Trinity's Young Adult Small Group and participated in a Recognizing Whiteness & Dismantling Racism Small Group. She is an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and volunteers at the Fulton County Board of Health.

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

Begin February 21

Classes meet on Zoom. Registration is not required for online class participation.
Zoom links are emailed on Sunday morning. [Sign up](#) to receive the weekly email.

Engaging Scripture “Paul For Today”

| Class | Leader | Description |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Feb. 21 - March 28 <i>Sunday mornings 9:45 – 10:50 am on Zoom</i> | Tom Jones and Juanita Watson | Other than Jesus himself, who was the most significant figure in early Christianity? You guessed it! What does the Apostle Paul have to say to us in the 21st Century about how we should live our lives and God's intentions for us? We'll explore the biographical material in the book of Acts, the Pauline school's letters attributed to Paul, and most importantly, Paul's own words, to bring the message alive for today. Tom Jones and Juanita Watson will be our guides on this journey with Paul. |

What About the Children

| Class | Leader | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. 21 - March 28 <i>Sunday mornings 9:45 – 10:50 am on Zoom</i> | Various Speakers | During a time of economic insecurity and pandemic, this six-week class will feature several speakers in education and family outreach. Education experts and community leaders representing local organizations will speak about their work with Atlanta's children, particularly those currently experiencing poverty and social inequities. Throughout our time together, we hope to provide information and direction about ways we, as members of a faith community, might put our own time, talent, and treasure toward answering particular challenges and needs, as these are revealed in the process of our learning. |
| 2/21/21 Trinity's History in the Care, Education, and Advocacy for Children | | In light of Trinity's long-standing involvement with child development, we'll begin the course with a panel discussion and the sharing of stories, featuring members who were there in the beginnings of Trinity's response to the needs of children. |
| 2/28/21 Agape During Quarantine | Marlon Montgomery, Director of Programs, Agape Youth and Family Center | Given Trinity's deep ties with Agape, we extend our story of outreach and programming for the youth of Atlanta with a presentation by the non-profit's Director of Programs, Marlon Montgomery. Marlon will briefly recall the work of the Center in a time before Covid, followed by a more comprehensive report of the ways Agape has adapted and responded to the quarantine. |
| 3/7/21 Improving Children's Language Skills | Dr. Garry McGiboney, Author of "The Psychology of School Climate" Arianne Weldon, Director, Get Georgia Reading Campaign | The ability to communicate is fundamental to child and adolescent social, emotional, and cognitive development. Language Skills are the vehicle by which children communicate their needs and ideas, develop and maintain relationships, and solidify their understanding of concepts. Garry and Arianne will talk about ways to improve "language nutrition," which is so essential to a child's well-being. |
| 3/14/21 Keeping Kids In School and Out of the Criminal Justice System | Michael Waller, Executive Director of Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice | Georgia Appleseed advances justice and legal action for Georgia's children, with a particular focus on children experiencing poverty and the effects of institutional bias and racism. Georgia Appleseed Executive Director, Michael Waller, will discuss Georgia Appleseed's work in keeping kids in school and out of the criminal justice system and promoting support for students with behavior and learning challenges. |

What About the Children ...continued

| Class | Leader | Description |
|---|---|--|
| 3/21/21 Improving Living Conditions and Housing Stability | Ayanna Jones-Lightsey, <i>Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation Co-Director of the Safe and Stable Homes Program and Leader of the "Standing With Our Neighbors Project"</i> | Attorney, teacher, and civic activist, Ms. Jones-Lightsey will share stories emerging from the collaborative SWON project that began in the Thomasville Heights community and has expanded to numerous locations in Atlanta, making a significant impact on the lives of indigent families and children, particularly with regard to education and housing. |
| 3/28/21 Learning Challenges During the Pandemic | Jeff Cohen, <i>Executive Director of Odyssey Atlanta</i> Ann Tedesco, <i>Elementary Director of Odyssey Atlanta</i> | Odyssey is a summer program targeting Atlanta Public Schools students from underserved communities. Its purpose is to help students improve their school performance and instill a love for lifelong learning with the goal of college attendance. We will hear from Odyssey Executive Director, Jeff Cohen, and Director of Elementary Learning, Ann Tedesco, about Odyssey's program, low-income student's learning challenges during the pandemic, and how Odyssey is serving its students this year. |

Reading James Baldwin in a Community of Faith



| Class | Leader | Description |
|---|---------------------|--|
| Thursdays Feb. 25 - April 1 <i>Thursday evenings</i> 7:00 - 8:15 pm on Zoom | Lasley Gober | In what ways do the mid-20th c. writings of James Baldwin speak to us today? This class will be both book club and interactive discussion about the times and works of the preacher-turned-author, beginning with the earliest days of his journey to become a witness, sharing with the world what he saw of the mountains left to climb in the movement for Civil Rights. Those interested might visit or revisit the poem by America's Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, as spoken at the U.S. Capitol during the January 20th inauguration. Gorman's is another voice, one of our day and time, emerging from the words and stories of the American past. What do we know and recall of those times, and what pieces were lost on us or forgotten? While participants are not required to read the assignments in order to participate, you're likely to find Baldwin's storytelling engaging in a way that will enrich your experience with the class. |
| 2/25/21 Cultural Memory: A "River Reading" of African American Voices Out of the Past | | Our first class will feature poetry spoken out loud by various members of Trinity's congregation, as participants listen to hear the rush and flow of Black American consciousness in the long climb toward liberty and justice for all. Reading assignment for March 4: Go Tell It on the Mountain, part I, "The Seventh Day" |

Reading James Baldwin in a Community of Faith ...continued

| Class | Leader | Description |
|---|--------|--|
| 3/4/21 Ancestral Memory/ Personal Memory: the Voices of Our Own Lives, Past and Present | | <p><i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i> paints a moving portrait of the artist as a young man hearing a chaos of voices telling him who to be and what to do with his life. Can we relate? The creation story of John, the novel's protagonist, parallels that of James Baldwin weaving in and out of a life of faith, ultimately discerning the inescapable meaning of The Word made flesh. Such beginnings will have a lifelong impact on the writer's identity and sense of purpose as witness, in artfully constructed prose, to the world in which he finds himself.</p> <p>Reading assignment for March 11: <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>, part II, "The Prayers of the Saints" Florence's Prayer and Gabriel's Prayer</p> |
| 3/11/21 People are Talking. Listen, God is Talking. | | <p>In a session devoted to role playing and the dramatic reading of passages from <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>, we'll hear White voices from the congregation getting into Black character, as a move toward empathy with lives largely unknown to us. In flashbacks, Baldwin animates both the sins and grace of the fathers and mothers as these are visited on the sons and daughters, elegantly describing the burdens and insights of the past. All contribute to the shaping of John, the reluctant Baptist, as he stands at the foot looking up at the steep mountain he'll have to climb.</p> <p>Reading assignment for March 18: <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>, part II, "The Prayers of the Saints" Elizabeth's Prayer</p> |
| 3/18/21 Exodus and the Journey to Freedom as Witness. | | <p>"John's relationship with the Word of the Father, and the sins of the father who raised him, makes him wrestle with what it means to be a Christian. A broken son of a broken man, John seeks a way out of his broken childhood and make a difference with his God-given gifts, moving his people closer the unrealized promise of hope and freedom. In what ways is the developing artist called to be a witness? What experiences and influences took this child of man and God out of despair and onto the path forward?</p> <p>Reading assignment for March 25: <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>, part III, "The Threshing Floor"</p> |
| 3/25/21 Ain't It the Gospel Truth? | | <p>In this class, we'll take a closer look at the historical context of the life and times of James Baldwin. Some of us will recall the same earthly events yet won't have experienced them in the ways Baldwin has. Upon revisiting particular moments in time and thinking about where we are now in the climb to the mountaintop, we'll explore passages from Eddie Glaude Jr.'s recently published <i>Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own</i>.</p> <p>Reading assignment for April 1: Revisit and reflect on the whole, <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i></p> |
| 4/1/21 Begin Again...Where Do We Go from Here? | | <p>Instead of a Final Exam, the final class will be, for all of us, a time of reflection on our reading and the stories of the past. We'll begin together, then spread out in smaller breakout groups to maximize the opportunity to share thoughts and questions about where we've been, with James Baldwin, and where we might go from here. As always, with any Adult Education class at Trinity, we will have come, not to The End, rather to a new beginning. Having climbed together to this new place of thought and feeling, we begin again with more to contemplate as we continue to grow in our life of faith and action.</p> |

WORSHIP **SUNDAY @ 9:00 AM**

This pre-recorded informal service is available
on Vimeo, YouTube, and our website and
premieres at 9:00 am on Facebook.

SUNDAY @ 11:00 AM

Traditional worship is pre-recorded and is
available on Vimeo, YouTube, and our website
and premieres at 11:00 am on Facebook.

CHURCH SCHOOL **SUNDAY @ 9:45 AM** **THURSDAY @ 7:00 PM**

Church school via Zoom. Class information
along with the Zoom link is emailed on
Sundays. [Sign up](#) to receive the Sunday email.



Making God's Love Visible