

**Alleluia! Christ is risen**  
**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Easter Sunday**

**April 12, 2020**

Take time, look after yourself, keep in touch with your friends and family through these next weeks and using our Bishop's Rt. Rev. David Edwards prayer, we pray; ***“Gracious God thank you that you are over all, in all and through all. We lift our world before you as we face the advent of the COVID-19 virus. We pray for those who are suffering its effects, the medical personnel who are caring for them and those who are seeking a vaccine or cure. We are grateful for the lives of people who have died and pray for their families and friends in their bereavement. We ask that you enable us to know your love for all and give us your peace which passes all understanding. In the name of Christ. Amen.***

[Trinity Church YouTube \(Newly Created\)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCClu5wz4F_KVvfHJcg1RlKA?view_as=subscriber)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCClu5wz4F\\_KVvfHJcg1RlKA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCClu5wz4F_KVvfHJcg1RlKA?view_as=subscriber)

Or type into your search engine (Google or others) Trinity Anglican Church SJ.

**Cathedral @ 10:30am** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un2G75XjnO0&feature=youtu.be>

The following was posted on Facebook this past week.

**A prayer for us to be grateful in this time we are in:**

May we who are merely inconvenienced - remember those lives that are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors – remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home – remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close – remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips – remember those who have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market – remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for quarantine at home – remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other – let us yet find ways to be the loving of God to our neighbours. Amen.

## **Trinity Easter Order of Service**

(Service can be found on the Trinity Official YouTube Channel)

**April 12,2020**

### **Order of Service (Book of Common Prayer – Morning Prayer)**

<b>Officiant</b>	Rev. Steven Scribner	<b>Organist</b>	Spencer Belyea
<b>Layreader</b>	Susanne Sutton	<b>Soloist</b>	Mary Louise Belyea
<b>Video Recorder</b>	Mary Louise Belyea		

### **Returning the Light of Christ into Trinity**

#### **Draped Cross**

#### **Versicles and Responses**

Psalm 118 vs 1-2 – pg 483

#### **Opening Hymn**

153 Jesus Christ is risen today

#### **Exhortation, Confession & Absolution**

Page 1, 2-4

#### **Easter Anthems**

Page 182

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 31:1-6

#### **Te Deum Laudamus**

Page 7

#### **New Testament Reading**

Acts 10:34-43

#### **Benedictus**

Page 9

#### **The Holy Gospel**

John 20:1-18

#### **Apostles' Creed (said)**

Page 10

**Message**  
Magdalene

The First Resurrection Apostle – Mary

**Solo**

Handel 'I know that my Redeemer liveth'

**Calling us to prayer & Lord's Prayer**

Page 10,11

**Collect for the day**

Page 182

**Prayers of the People**

**Collect for Peace and Collect for Grace**

Page 11

**General Thanksgiving**

Page 14

**Prayer of Saint Chrysostom**

Page 15

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn #157**

He is Risen, He is Risen

**Postlude**

Bach 'Preludium in Bb #8

## **Sunday's Readings,**

### **Jeremiah 31:1-6**

31 "At that time," declares the Lord, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people."

2 This is what the Lord says:

"The people who survive the sword  
will find favor in the wilderness;  
I will come to give rest to Israel."

3 The Lord appeared to us in the past,[a] saying:

"I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

4 I will build you up again,  
and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.  
Again you will take up your timbrels  
and go out to dance with the joyful.

5 Again you will plant vineyards  
on the hills of Samaria;  
the farmers will plant them  
and enjoy their fruit.

6 There will be a day when watchmen cry out  
on the hills of Ephraim,

'Come, let us go up to Zion,  
to the Lord our God.'

### **Commentary:**

In Jeremiah we have, chapters 1 through 29 where we have stage one of God's redemptive plan for Judah (southern kingdom) and Israel (northern kingdom). These chapters comprise what is sometimes referred to as the 'Book of Comfort' – the promised restoration for Israel. In chapter 31 we get the message of assurance which is followed by words of healing after punishment in chapter 32. The latter part of the book speaks to the prophecies of judgement.

In our reading selected for today we have God speaking of the future ***"At this time declares the Lord."*** where He plans to do wonderful things. For God foresees the re-unification of Israel (the northern and southern kingdoms). He speaks of the past making references to the freeing of Israel from Egypt's captivity, where He provided all that was needed for their safety. Through it all God has kept them from the sword ***"The people who survived the sword"*** vs 2 where He draws on a number of sword experiences in Israel's past; Pharaoh's order to execute all infant males, the parting of the Red Sea, the trials of the desert guiding them day and night, feeding them (manna) and providing them with water. And God promising to lead them to rest in Canaan, ***"I will come to give rest to Israel"*** vs 2.

I have read the quote in my past, ***"It is hard to take comfort from former smiles under present frowns."*** We get lost in our present lot in life, and fail to see the beauty, the gifts and grace God has provided us in our past.

My friend and mentor, the late Rev. Ian Peterson, once told me that we often are challenged to see past the darkness of our current life challenges. He shared the image, and I love images, of us rolling up a piece of paper into a funnel shape. Then putting the small opening up to ones' eye.

The darkness of our day is the most current in our mind and is at the forefront of this funnel

view. We fail to be able to see past this darkness to the beauty of life God has blessed us with. Such wonders as birthdays, anniversaries, birth of our children, views of God's creation and the list goes on. This image aligns for me to the quote above, ***"It is hard to take comfort from former smiles under present frowns."*** We need to remember God's promise to those He was speaking to through Jeremiah where He tells us, ***"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt."*** God is speaking to Israel, however I

see it as speaking to each of us as part of His church – I have and will love you with an everlasting love and will build you up again.

God goes on to tell us in vs 6 that He can make those who have been enemies to religion and the worship of God to become encouragers of them. This is embedded in the references of the 'watchmen of Ephraim' who formally had hatred against the house of God - not inviting - to begin to say ***“Come, let us go up to Zion to the Lord our God.”*** vs 6.

If you would like to listen to a song I heard while driving to our rural church, St. James in Murillo Ontario one spring Sunday morning, google Jimmy Wayne 'I love you this much'. It is about a little boy who went through life not feeling loved and it was at his father's funeral where the little boy finally gets it, that he was loved all his life. The lyrics (in part go like this) while he was looking at Christ on the Cross.

Halfway through the funeral while the choir sang a hymn  
He looked up above the preacher and sat and stared at him.

He said forgive me father when he realized  
He hadn't been unloved or alone all his life  
His arms were stretched out as far as they'd go  
Nailed to the cross for the whole world to know

I love you this much  
I'm waiting on you  
To make up your mind, do you love me too  
However long it takes I'm never givin' up  
No matter what – I love you this much.

## Acts 10:34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached.

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

39 “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross,

40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

### **Commentary:**

William Barclay, 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian, refers to this scripture as ‘The Heart of the Gospel’. This scripture outlines one of the earliest messages about Jesus from the gift of God’s only Son through His baptism, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

First and foremost, Jesus is a gift from God – He being equipped with the spirit and the power by His Father. Jesus’ ministry was focused on banishing pain and sorrow from the world. For this, the sin of the world crucified Him. To which the Father responded on the third day and Jesus’ resurrection proving that physical death is not the end. To this we have Mary Magdalene’s witness that Jesus lives.

From this message we are assured through forgiveness of our sins we will have a new relationship with God – and this is an ongoing relationship we experience as we work on our lives shaping them more and more in His likeness as we continue this life journey.

Again, images are important to me, which help my memory. I am reminded of an image I once read about the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Where God’s thought of the Crucifixion is “**this is what you thought of my Son**” and His thought on the Resurrection is “**This is what I think of my Son.**”

No other words are needed!

## **John 20:1-18**

### The Empty Tomb

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,

7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb

12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

### **Commentary:**

We are fortunate to reflect on John's Gospel especially for these Christian Celebrations as John provides us a view of what we should take away from Jesus' experiences.

This is a story which is centered around love. We have Mary Magdalene who is known in the scriptures for her sordid past – much speculation – however we are told for certain Jesus cleansed her of the evil spirits. She was forgiven and purified putting her past beyond focus giving her a new life for which she would be forever grateful. Mary turned her life around from sin to much love and it was this love she brought to the

Cross and it was this love that brought her to the Empty Tomb on that first Easter morning. It is Mary's love that continued even though she did not understand the physical realities that she observed.

It was Mary who loved Jesus and certainly Jesus' love for her that resulted in Mary being chosen by Jesus to be ever present in Jesus' critical moments. From this, Jesus chose Mary Magdalene to reveal the mystery of the empty tomb, by visually appearing to Mary as the Resurrected Jesus and by doing so making Mary the first Apostle of the resurrection among all the Apostles.

It was love that John, the one Jesus loved so much, was given eyes to read the signs and a mind to understand the resurrection as the first of Jesus' closest followers.

William Barclay, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Theologian writes that it is love that is the great interpreter, as it is by love we ***“can grasp the truth when intellect is left groping and uncertain. Love can realize the meaning of a thing when research is blind.”***

As for why did Jesus choose Mary Magdalene of all He knew to reveal the mystery of the empty tomb, please check out Trinity's Easter service this Sunday on the Trinity Official YouTube channel – directions to this site at the beginning of this paper.

## **Closing Prayers:**

As we prepare to end our time together on this Easter Sunday, may we all take a moment in prayer?

### **Prayers of the People:**

Dear Lord, we know when two or three are gathered together you hear our requests. In these ever-changing days of uncertainty as we, our loved ones, friends, neighbours and countless tens of thousands we will never know are touched in one way or another with this COVID-19 virus that you will hold us firmly in your loving care.

#### **We pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine.**

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

#### **We pray for people at higher risk, those on the medical front line and caregivers.**

Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 — the elderly, people with chronic health conditions, the medical front line workers and caregivers. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones.

### **We pray for leaders responsible for making decisions.**

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions, our Queen, Queen Elizabeth, our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau and our Premier Blaine Higgs. Provide them with your guiding hand in order their decisions will positively affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

### **We pray for families adjusting to new ways of life.**

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

### **We pray for our church,**

Dear Lord continue to provide our church leaders with the wisdom to lead your church through this pandemic and bring us through with a stronger relationship with You. Be with The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, Archbishop, Rt. Rev. David Edwards, Bishop, Diocese of Fredericton, all Priests, Deacons. May they at this time be inspired to reach out in new ways to continue to strengthen the community of your family. By this your faithful remain calm and connected continuing their one on one relationship with you.

Heavenly Father, we raise all our prayers and desires up to you, knowing all is possible through your power. Let us in these trying times, slow down and truly appreciate the beauty of Your creation. On this Easter we raise up our gratitude and thanks to You for the gift of Your precious Son, Jesus Christ who came to show us the way, died for us and by doing so has given us the gift of Eternal Life with you. Grant us the gift of your mercy as we continue this earthly pilgrimage to the day you will call us home with all the faithful that have gone on before us. In Your name we ask this, Amen.

## **Holy Week and Easter;**

On the Diocese web site and if you are able to look under Trinity Facebook you will find numerous options for you for Holy Week and Easter that will help you journey through these the strangest of times for us the faithful.

Beginning on Palm Sunday, the Diocese will be posting nightly reflections and meditations from various clergy in our Diocese. Talks will be posted by 6pm daily along with some prayer and home liturgies you can use.

**Schedule:**

- Maundy Thursday**            The Rev. Jasmine Chandra (Parish of St. Mark)  
The Rev. Paul Ranson (Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis)
- Good Friday**                The Rev. Cole Hartin (Parish of Portland)  
The Rev. Paul Ranson (Parish of Douglas and Mashwaaksis)
- Good Friday Reflections on the Seven Words from the Cross**  
Offered by Bishop David – noon thru to 3pm – link will be posted for this
- Holy Saturday**             Dean Geoffrey Hall (Cathedral)  
The Rev. Michael Cains (Parish of the Nerepis and St. John)
- Easter Prayer Vigil**        Begins Saturday at 6pm, someone will be leading throughout the night and you are invited at any point and for as long as you want. We will be using Zoom for the vigil.
- Easter Sunday**              Trinity will have the Easter Service on the Trinity Official YouTube Channel



## A New River Easter Message

### **COVID-19**

With all the devastation world-wide ongoing with respect to the spreading of the Corona Virus, we need to be ever thankful for our essential service providers particularly those who are putting themselves in harms way making sure we have all the medical options should we become sick. They are putting themselves at risk and we can do our part by staying home.

Although we are not gathering this Sunday in community at Trinity please find ways to take special time to be in the quiet of life on Sunday morning, be in prayer, read scripture and for sure be in contact with one another and your family respecting self-distancing. On this Easter Sunday, you have the option to join Trinity through YouTube for our Easter Sunday Service.

COVID-19 resources are available [nb.anglican.ca/COVID-19](https://nb.anglican.ca/COVID-19) There are resources posted along with vlogs from Bishop David and details on joining the Diocesan Litany @ 6 (Monday through Saturday) using the link in red provided.

Keep well and if you have any needs, please feel at ease to call or e mail – either the Church 693-8558 (leave a message) or email trinsj@nb.aibn.com or my personal contacts, 639-3344 or steven.g.scribner@gmail.com

## **On Line Trinity Parish Gathering –**

On Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30pm Trinity gathers in community through the On-Line conferencing platform titled ZOOM. Our first time together was last Wednesday evening and we had eight and shared many experiences and joined together in prayer. You can join by video or by phone both worked well. Video provides you an opportunity to see one another.

## **Alleluia, Christ is risen The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Have a happy, joyous and safe (healthy) Easter

Rev. Steven G. Scribner

Denise Clapham  
Parish Administrator  
Trinity Anglican Church  
115 Charlotte Street  
Saint John, NB E2L 2J2  
1-506-693-8558  
<https://trinitysj.com/>