

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



"The Mustard Seed Tree" – James Paterson

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rite I ~ Holy Eucharist

Proper 12 ~ July 26, 2026 at 9 AM



The Reverend Andrew David Kruger ~ Presider & Preacher

Anthony J. Rafaniello ~ Director of Music

Casey Woodruff ~ Senior Warden & Kathleen M. Murray ~ Junior Warden

The bells are rung and the People stand.

I. Gathering of God's People

Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer 323

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Commandment

BCP 324

Presider Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,
and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it:

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie

BCP 324

Presider Kyrie eleison.

People **Christe eleison.**

Presider Kyrie eleison.

Collect of the Day

BCP 180

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy, that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

II. Proclaiming and Receiving the Word of God

First Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis.

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country – giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 105:1-11

Confitemini Domino

BCP 738

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- ³ Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- ⁵ Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- ⁶ O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- ⁷ He is the LORD our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.
- ⁸ He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:

- 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Issac,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Another parable Jesus put before the crowds: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

“So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

III. Responding to the Proclaimed Word

Homily

Andrew Kruger

Nicene Creed

BCP 326

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sean, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church; Sally, our Bishop; and Andrew, our Priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President; Rebecca Michelle, our governor; and Kathleen, the mayor of this town; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 330

Presider Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The People kneel.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Absolution

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

Peace

BCP 332

The People stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

Announcements

Andrew Kruger

IV. Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Offertory Sentence

Psalms 50:14

Presider Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offering of bread and wine to the Holy Table.



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the people.
Another option is to give to Trinity online –
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

The ushers bring the collection plates to the Holy Table, and the People stand.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; because in Jesus Christ our Lord thou hast received us as thy sons and daughters, made us citizens of thy kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus

BCP 341

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
are yours, forever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

BCP 337

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed, then the Presider says

<i>Presider</i>	Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
<i>People</i>	Therefore let us keep the feast.

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son
Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Invitation

BCP 338

Presider The Gifts of God:
People **For the People of God.**

Holy Communion

The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All who hunger for God, including children, are cordially invited to share the Gifts of God offered at this table. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. You may choose to receive only the host. Gluten-free wafers are available by request to the priest.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Blessing

BCP 339

And now may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

BCP 340

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

For Friends, Visitors and Newcomers

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey. Thank you for joining us in worship. The bulletin is designed to make you feel at home and includes everything you need for the service (liturgy, hymns, rubrics, etc.). Please connect with us; introduce yourself to the ushers so they can make you feel more comfortable. Father Andy is in the narthex (entrance) at the end of the service; it is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level. All are invited to Fellowship Hour in Sherlock Hall immediately after the service. An email blast is sent every Thursday by 2 PM with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information on events, etc. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

Spiritual Reflection: Reading Genesis with Gregory of Nyssa

Week 4 — Genesis 29:15–28

“In the morning, behold, it was Leah!” – Genesis 29:25

This is one of the most difficult passages in Genesis. Modern readers rightly recoil at its assumptions. Women are treated as part of a marriage negotiation between men. Rachel and Leah have little agency over decisions that shape the whole of their lives. Laban’s deception turns marriage into a transaction, and the story’s central moment – Jacob awakening to discover he has married Leah – raises questions that the text itself neither answers nor even appears interested in asking. We should resist any temptation to smooth over these realities or pretend they are unproblematic.

The Bible is remarkably honest about the brokenness of the world it describes. It tells the story of God’s covenant through families marked by favoritism, manipulation, exploitation, and grief. The narrative does not invite us to imitate these relationships; it invites us to recognize how persistently God works within them. Gregory of Nyssa often wrote about desire as a force that can either imprison the soul or draw it toward God. Jacob’s love for Rachel is genuine and enduring. “They seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.” Gregory would not dismiss such longing. Human desire, he believed, is woven into our nature because we are created to seek the infinite beauty of God.

Yet Genesis also reveals how desire can narrow our vision. Jacob sees Rachel, but scarcely notices Leah. His longing becomes focused on one imagined future, and in the shock of morning he is confronted by a reality he neither expected nor chose. Gregory frequently portrays spiritual growth as the slow relinquishment of the illusion that we can control the shape of blessing. We imagine that fulfillment will come according to our plans. Instead, God meets us amid disappointment, ambiguity, and circumstances we would never have selected for ourselves.

The mystery of Jacob’s story is that God’s purposes continue to unfold through people who have been overlooked and wounded. Leah, whose dignity is repeatedly denied by those around her, is not forgotten by God. Indeed, she becomes one of the principal ancestors of Israel, and through her line come both David and, ultimately, Jesus. Gregory reminds us that God’s grace does not erase the wounds of history, nor does it justify them. Rather, grace refuses to allow injustice to have the final word. Even within lives marked by exploitation and sorrow, God continues the patient work of healing, restoring, and drawing every human heart toward the fullness of divine love.

Lectioary & Liturgy

As we did last Sunday, today we hear parables of Jesus concerning God’s Kingdom. The Kingdom is characterized as hidden, yet being revealed; as small now but destined to grow large; as precious that those who discover it will give all in order to attain it; as open to all who will accept it.

As we continue the story of our forebears, Jacob, living with his uncle Laban, asks for the hand of Rachel, whom he loves. Laban tricks him (trickery ran in the family, perhaps) and marries him to his older daughter, Leah. After a time, however, Jacob is allowed to marry Rachel, as well. From these two women came the twelve sons of Jacob and the twelve tribes of Israel.

Our continued reading of the Epistle to the Romans leads us to Paul’s great outburst of praise and assurance of the certainty of God’s love for us. Here Paul is certain that even our weakest and most elementary striving towards God is proof that God is leading us and has destined us for glory.

The Church is not the Kingdom of God. It is, in the words of Alexander Schmemmann, the world in the process of becoming the Kingdom. When we gather to celebrate, our movement toward the Kingdom is revealed. In the Eucharist God reconstitutes us as the Church and we discover ourselves growing toward the Kingdom.

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Inc., NY

What you need to know today...

Cover Art “The Mustard Seed Tree” © 1957 Image courtesy of the artist, all rights reserved. A British born Canadian based in Montreal, James Paterson has spent most of his life as an artist and all his life as an “Imagineer,” creating and implementing the ideas originating deep within his heart and imagination. “Years ago at the conclusion of a heavy hitting psychedelic trip, I was left chewing on the phrase “open up time and space and beauty will emerge”, and I’ve been trying to take that advice ever since.” His wire creations, known as Prayer Machines, are a culmination of his professional work and childhood experiences growing up in the vibrant and visually textured Kensington Market area of Toronto, Canada. These story-telling machines evolved during a 3-year sojourn in Europe.

Fellowship Hour Today, in Sherlock Hall, immediately after this service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided.

Financial Snapshot As of June 30, the parish has received \$106,000 versus \$117,000 pledged year to date. Gratitude is expressed for the continued support; if the financial situation has changed or to adjust a pledge, please inform the financial secretary, Carol Beier.

Vestry Meeting Today at 11:30 AM in Witherington Hall, please pray for the leadership of our parish:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in Trinity's Vestry for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What you need to know this week...

The Daily Offices Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday-Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM.

Parish Office Hours Office Manager Marion Nechuta is available from Tuesday to Thursday from 12 noon to 3:30 PM.

Compline This Thursday at 8 PM online.

What you need to know in the future...

Summer Schedule Today to Sunday, August 30, there is only one Sunday service at 9 AM. During this summer period the fourth Sunday of the month is a Rite I said service, all other services are Rite II with music.

Trinity Men's Group Saturday, August 1 from 8-9 AM in Witherington Hall.

Trinity Fellowship Luncheon Thursday, August 20 from 12:30-2 PM in Witherington Hall

Round Up Sunday September 13, only one service at 10 AM for Trinity's annual after-summer welcome-back service. Come for worship, fellowship and food. See what's happening and find out how to get involved. All are welcome, all are loved, no exceptions.



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