

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



"God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth"

The Feast of God the Creator

Holy Eucharist ~ Rite II ~ August 31, 2025 at 9 AM



The Reverend Andrew David Kruger - Presider & Preacher

Susan Caldwell Nelson - Musician-in-Residence & Organist

Anthony J. Rafaniello - Director of Music

Casey Woodruff - Senior Warden & Thomas Kaercher - Junior Warden

*The Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of Robert W. Taylor, husband of Doreen Taylor*

Pre-Service Candle Lighting

Worshippers receive a beeswax candle and are invited to light a candle at one of the Icons, this ‘candle lighting prayer’ may be used: “Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world: illumine my heart, and melt my life with love for my neighbor. Amen.”

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

Prelude Chorale Prelude on “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation” – Paul Manz

At the end of the prelude, the bells are rung and the People stand.

I. Gathering of God’s People

Gathering Hymn

Morning Song

Hymnal 9



*1 Not here for high and ho - ly things we ren - der thanks to
*2 the ro - yal robes of au - tumn moors, the gold - en gates of
5 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of
6 to give and give, and give a - gain, what God hath giv - en

1 thee, but for the com - mon things of earth, the
2 spring, the vel - vet of soft sum - mer nights, the
5 praise; see how the gi - ant sun soars up, great
6 thee; to spend thy - self nor count the cost; to

1 pur - ple pa - gean - try of dawn - ing and of
2 sil - ver glis - te - ring of all the mil - lion
5 lord of years and days! So let the love of
6 serve right glo - rious - ly the God who gave all

1 dy - ing days, the splen - dor of the sea,
2 mil - lion stars, the si - lent song they sing,
5 Je - sus come and set thy soul a - blaze,
6 worlds that are, and all that are to be.

Gathering Sentences

Presider Source of Life, you formed the cosmos from a formless void:
People **God creates from nothing.**

Presider Word of Life, you spoke creation into existence:
People **God’s Word endures for ever.**

Presider Spirit of Life, you birthed humanity by your breath:
People **God’s Spirit sustains the universe.**

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Glorious God, the cosmos proclaims your marvelous work: fill us with wonder at your creation, so that we will cherish the gift of this good earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

II. Proclaiming and Receiving the Word of God

First Reading

Job 38:1-7

Reader A reading from the book of Job.

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements – surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148:1-10

Laudate Dominum

BCP 805

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD; *
for he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

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

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Proclaiming Hymn

Langham

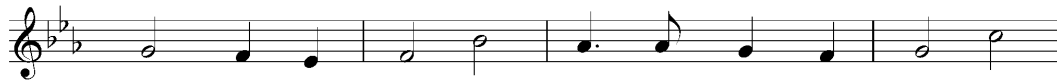
Hymnal 573



1 Fa - ther e - ter - nal, Ru - ler of cre - a - tion,
2 Rac - es and peo - ples, lo, we stand di - vid - ed,
3 En - vious of heart, blind - eyed, with tongues con - found - ed,
4 Lust of pos - ses - sion work - eth des - o - la - tions;
5 How shall we love thee, ho - ly hid - den Be - ing,



1 Spi - rit of life, which moved ere form was made,
2 and, shar - ing not our griefs, no joy can share;
3 na - tion by na - tion still goes un - for - given,
4 there is no meek - ness in the powers of earth;
5 if we love not the world which thou hast made?



1 through the thick dark - ness cov - ering ev - ery na - tion,
2 by wars and tu - mults love is mocked, de - rid - ed;
3 in wrath and fear, by jea - lous - ies sur - round - ed,
4 led by no star, the ru - lers of the na - tions
5 Bind us in thine own love for bet - ter see - ing



1 light to our blind - ness, O be thou our aid:
2 his sav - ing cross no na - tion yet will bear:
3 build - ing proud towers which shall not reach to heaven:
4 still fail to bring us to the bliss - ful birth:
5 thy Word made flesh, and in a man - ger laid:



Refrain
thy king - dom come, O Lord, thy will be done.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-5, 14

Presider ✕ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

III. Responding to the Proclaimed Word

Homily

Andrew Kruger

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

BCP 292 alt.

The Presider moves to the font and the People stand.

Friends in Christ, Baptism is not the rite of a moment but the commitment of a lifetime. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with our Lord.

Therefore let us reaffirm our Baptismal Vows together with all those who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this month.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Blessing the Water

Common Worship alt.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord:

People **God is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be glory and praise for ever! You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph. Accept our sacrifice of praise, we pray, and sanctify these waters of your new creation, that we, with all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit, may be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **Blessèd be God for ever.**

The Presider sprinkles the People.

Baptismal Chant

"We Shall Draw Water" – Paul Inwood



Prayers of the People

Honoring God in Creation alt.

The Presider says

Let us pray for the reign of God in the world.

The Intercessor prays.

For the well-being of the earth with its resources of water, air, light, and soil.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

For the careful use and conservation of the waters of the earth.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

For the sustainable extraction and use of mineral and energy resources.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

For wisdom to prevail among those who shape public environmental policies.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

For human activity to enhance the fruitfulness, and beauty of the world.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

For the healing of creatures and human beings who are ill, at risk, or in pain.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

For the reverence to acknowledge the creatures whose death sustains our living.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

The Intercessor remains at the lectern, then returns to their seat during the sharing of the Peace. The Presider prays

Source of Life, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of the One through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Peace

BCP 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Andrew Kruger

IV. Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Offertory Sentence

Revelation 4:11

Presider O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

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

Offertory Meditation

Improvisation on *Christos Anesti*



*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 People stand. The ushers bring the collection plates to the ministers.

Presentation of Gifts

An Anglican Prayer Book 1989

Presider Source of all life, everything in heaven and on earth is yours:
People **All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

Presider Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made:
People **For us it becomes the bread of life. Blessèd be God for ever.**

Presider Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
People **For us it becomes the cup of salvation. Blessèd be God for ever.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Anglican Church of Southern Africa alt.

<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>The Lord be with you.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>And al - so with you.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	
<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>	

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you – for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people. And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

William Matthias

Hymnal S 128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever.

Great Amen

Mathias/Kruger

A men, A men. A men.

Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

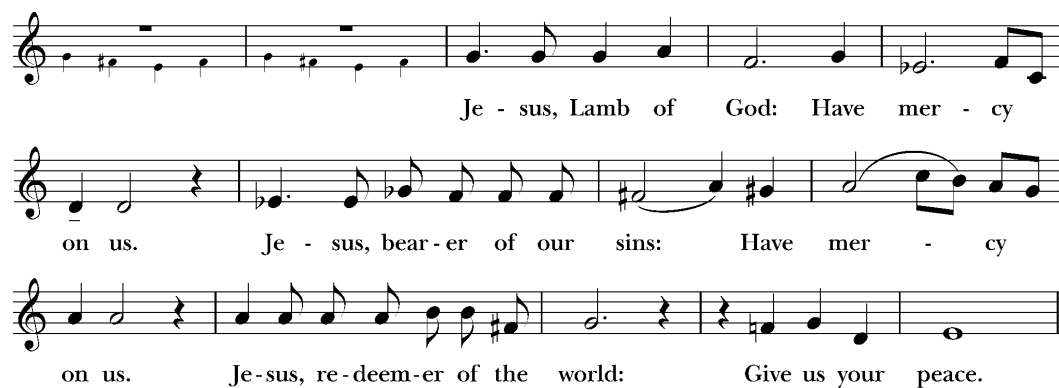
Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Agnus Dei

William Matthias

Hymnal S 165



Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

Invitation

BCP 364

Presider The Gifts of God:

People **for the People of God.**

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 at this time. Gluten-free wafers are available by request to the priest.

First Communion Hymn

Kingsfold

Hymnal 292

1 O Je-sus, crowned with all re-noun, since thou the earth hast
 2 Lord, in their change, let frost and heat, and winds and dews be
 3 that we may feed the poor a-right, and, gath-ering round thy
 trod, thou reign - est and by thee come down hence -
 given; all fos - tering power, all in - fluence sweet, breathe
 throne, here, in the ho - ly an - gels' sight, re -
 forth the gifts of God. Thine is the health and
 from the bount - eous heaven. At - tem - per fair with
 pay thee of thine own: That we may praise thee
 thine the wealth that in our halls a - bound, and
 gen - tle air the sun - shine and the rain, that
 all our days, and with the Fa - ther's Name, and
 thine the beau - ty and the joy with which the years are crowned.
 kind - ly earth with time - ly birth may yield her fruits a - gain:
 with the Ho - ly Spi-rit's gifts, the Sa - vior's love pro - claim.

Second Communion Hymn

East Acklam

Hymnal 424

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be
 3 For the har - vests of the Spi - rit, thanks be to
 God. For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion,
 done. In the help we give our neigh - bor,
 God. For the good we all in - her - it,
 thanks be to God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing,
 God's will be done. In our world - wide task of car - ing,
 thanks be to God. For the won - ders that as - tound us,
 si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in
 for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, in the har - vests
 for the truths that still con-found us, most of all that
 earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 love has found us, thanks be to God.

Post Communion Prayer

First Nations Christian Liturgy

Presider Let us pray.

Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. **Amen.**

Blessing

CW

May God the Father, who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, provide us with all we need for life in its fullness. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine, feed us with his life and transform us in his love. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Lasst uns erfreuen

Hymnal 400



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the

1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain

O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PresiderAlleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

Toccata – Théodore Dubois

Introduction to the Feast of God the Creator

In Orthodox Christianity, there is an ancient practice of observing September 1 as the “Day of Creation”, marking the day in which God began the creation of the universe as described in the first chapter of the Bible. September 1 is the very day that symbolizes the expression “In the beginning”, the famous opening of both the Book of Genesis and the Gospel of John. It represents the very day in which God said “Let there be light.”

Building on this rich tradition, in 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios expanded the day’s symbolism to also be a day of prayer for creation in the Orthodox Church, a day to offer “prayers and supplications to the Maker of all, both as thanksgiving for the great gift of Creation and as petitions for its protection and salvation.” For pastoral and practical purposes, some Orthodox churches moved it to the first Sunday of September, rather than a fixed date on September 1.

In 2015, Pope Francis followed suit and established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1 for the Roman Catholic Church. And sometime before, also inspired by the Orthodox celebration, the World Council of Churches extended it to be a month-long “Season of Creation” from that day till October 4 (Feast of St. Francis, patron saint of ecology), which all major Christian denominations then joined to celebrate together.

This year we keep the Feast of God the Creator on August 31; the closest Sunday to September 1. Obviously this feast is an opportunity for us to celebrate God the creator and pray for the cosmos, but it also an ecumenical opportunity for us to be enriched by Orthodox spirituality. Therefore our service will include the opportunity to light beeswax candles at several icon stations, in much the same way I witnessed Orthodox worshippers do throughout Greece.

Baptismal Anniversaries

When we think about birthdays, we immediately recall the date we were born and took our first breath in this world. But if we take a moment to reflect, we will realize that we have another “birthday” of even greater significance: the day we became members of the body of Christ – our Baptismal birthday.

Through the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit anoints us and sets our inner compass, to walk in a path that is pleasing to God, to do all good works that God has planned for us, and to “seek God’s face” [Psalm 27:8]. This is the path that ultimately leads us into abundant life both in this earthly existence, and in the world to come. Whether baptized as a child or an adult, we prayerfully grow in our understanding and appreciation of our baptismal identity, as individuals and as a community.

Usually, on the first Sunday of every month, we acknowledge those who have a baptismal “birthday” during the month in question and share in their renewal of baptismal vows. This monthly recognition of our “birth from above” [John 3:3] allows us to develop a deeper appreciation for the essence of our baptism. Parishioners celebrating their Baptismal Anniversaries in September:

Robert Barone	Sept. 23	Allyssa Knapp	Sept. 10	Heather Burnett	Sept. 23
Carolyn Dittmar	Sept. 12	Toru Ishiyama	Sept. 2	Ruth Uhde	Sept. 21
Charlotte Bain	Sept. 1	Anthony Rafaniello	Sept. 11	Cindy Concannon	Sept. 11
James Patrick Gluck	Sept. 21	Lynn Solecki	Sept. 2	Logan Garstka	Sept.
Madeleine Brennan	Sept. 4			Bethany Williams	Sept. 25

What you need to know today...

The Feast of God the Creator is today. See the Spiritual Reflection above for more information.

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

What you need to know this week...

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

Parish Office Parish Administrator Marion Nechuta is in Tuesday (12 noon-2:30 PM), Wednesday (1 PM-3:30 PM) and Thursday (12 noon-2:30 PM). Father Andy's sabbath day is now Friday (it had previously been on Monday).

Compline Thursdays at 8 PM online. A contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace.

Trinity Men's Group Saturday, September 6 from 9 AM to 10 AM in Witherington Hall.

Trinity Knitting Circle for Seamen's Institute Saturday September 6 from 10 AM to 11 AM in Witherington Hall. Beginners, intermediate and expert knitters are invited to join. If interested, contact Marion Nechuta at marionnechuta@yahoo.com.

What you need to know for the future...

Round Up Sunday Next week, September 7, 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. There is a link in this week's email blast for items needed for that day. The luncheon is sponsored by the Sabbatical Fund (with monies from the Lilly Endowment grant).

Trinity Women's Group Monday, September 8 from 7 PM to 8 PM online.

Handbells and Choir Rehearsals Wednesday, September 10; rehearsal for Handbells is 7 to 7:50 PM and Adult Choir is 8-9 PM.

Annual Cranford 9/11 Memorial Service Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 PM at Memorial Park (corner of Springfield and No. Union Avenues); it is hosted by the Cranford WTC Committee and the Cranford Clergy Council. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. This event honors all those that lost their lives in the September 11 attacks.

Parish Work Day Saturday, September 13 from 9 AM to 12 PM (come for an hour or more); more information to follow.

Sunday School Sunday, September 14 is the first day of class. After the blessing at the beginning of the service, the children go to class with their teachers and return to the worship service for the Eucharist.

Presentation of Fr. Andy's Trip to Greece Sunday, September 14, after both services in Witherington Hall. Fr Andy will share highlights of his trip to Greece, including an introduction to Orthodox Spirituality.

Fellowship Luncheon Thursday, September 18 from 12:30 to 2 PM in Witherington Hall. All are welcome. Please call Susan Olszewski (908-757-9561) or Susan Nelson (908-397-3944) for questions or to volunteer help.

St. John's Sandwich Sunday September 21, 2025. Please contact Marion Nechuta at marionnechuta@yahoo.com or Helen Shteynberg at hshteynberg@gmail.com.

The Sacrament of Baptism Candidates will be enrolled on Sunday, September 21 at the 10 AM Eucharist, and parents of candidates are required to attend the Baptismal Preparation Class on Saturday, October 11, from 10 AM till 12 Noon. Baptism will be offered on the Feast of All Saints (observed on Sunday, November 2). Application forms are available from Marion Nechuta and must be submitted by Sunday, September 14.

Acolyte Training Sunday, October 19 immediately after the 10 AM Eucharist for all current and aspirant acolytes.

Liturgy

† **Cover Art** – "God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth" is a panel from the left stationary wing of the high altarpiece of the Church of Saint John the Baptist in Kisszeben (today Sabinov, Slovakia) from 1496. © Museum of Fine Arts – Hungarian National Gallery.

† **Gathering Hymn** – Words: Geoffrey Anketel Studdert-Kennedy (1883-1929) © by permission of Hodder and Stoughton Ltd. Working in deprived parishes, he was known for his forgetfulness, his generosity and his plain speaking (he did not shy from the horrors of war or questions of faith raised). His memorial reads, "A poet; a prophet; a passionate seeker after truth; an ardent advocate of Christian fellowship." Music: melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826), composer who contributed more than a dozen tunes to John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music (1813); this folk tune has resemblance to "Old King Cole."

- † **Proclaiming Hymn** – Words: Laurence Housman (1865-1959) often seemed to fall afoul of the censors, though, for religious and political reasons. A committed socialist and pacifist, in 1907, he helped found the Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage. Music: Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879-1943).
- † **Affirmation of Baptismal Vows** – Erasmus proposed a ritual in 1522 for adolescents to renew their baptismal vows; his suggestion was censored, and his book placed on the Index in 1559. As a liturgical rite, the Renewal emerged from the Reformation – it was first recorded in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* as part of the confirmation rite. The ritual is conducted in both the Protestant and revised Catholic liturgies on similar lines. The bishop or priest faces the people, conducts a “dialogue” in the vernacular with the whole congregation.
- † **Baptismal Chant** – Words: Isaiah 12:2-6. Music © 1986, 1988 Paul Inwood (b. 1946), published by OCP Publications.
- † **First Communion Hymn** – Words: Edward White Benson (1829-1896), who spent the last 13 years of his life as Archbishop of Canterbury. Music: English melody thought by some scholars to date back to the Middle Ages; adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). After having heard the tune in Kingsfold, Sussex, England (thus its name), he introduced it as a hymn tune in *The English Hymnal* (1906).
- † **Second Communion Hymn** – Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) –[©1970 Hope Publishing]. Erik Routley considered him to be the most important British hymn writer since Charles Wesley. His hymns reject fundamentalism and show concern with social issues. They “fill the gap between the hymns of the first part of this century and the ‘far-out’ compositions that have crowded into some churches in the last decade or more.” Regarding hymn singing, “It’s such a dangerous activity; you get this glow which you can mistake for religious experience.” Music: Francis Jackson; born in 1917, he passed away in January 2022 at 104 years old. –[©1960]
- † **Sending Hymn** – Words: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). In the year 1225, completely blind and nearing death, he arrived at the Convent of St. Damian. Universally known for preaching to the animals, his whole life was one of service to God and humanity. It was there that he wrote “Canticle of the Sun” (a meditation on Psalm 145), later paraphrased into this hymn and translated by the Rev. William H. Draper (1855-1933). Music: melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. for The English Hymnal of 1906 by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). This arrangement has become the standard for English-speaking churches; by permission of Oxford University Press.
- † **Postlude** – Clément François Théodore Dubois (1837–1924) was a French Romantic composer, organist and pedagogue.

Reverence or Veneration of Icons: Fr. Andy

One of the most distinctive aspects of Orthodox worship is the veneration of icons. During my time in Greece, I witnessed the faithful cross and prostrate themselves before icons. Icons are kissed, and candles are burned in front of them; they are censed by the priest and carried in procession. All of this can look a lot like idolatry, but when Orthodox people kiss an icon or prostrate themselves before it, they are not guilty of idolatry. The icon is not an idol but a symbol; the veneration shown to images is directed, not towards stone, wood and paint, but towards the person depicted. In this way, icons are considered to be windows into heaven with a special power to reveal spiritual truths to us.

The Syrian monk St. John of Damascus deserves credit for much of the theological labor that established what icons are and how they should be handled. There was a time when some Christians believed that icons were idols and sought to smash them and replace them with crosses. St. John pointed out that this was merely to swap one image for another. A cross displayed in a church is not the cross, but a copy of it. If we can honor an image or replica of the cross, why not the image of the Crucified One, who gave the cross its meaning? We don’t honor the wood for its own sake, St. John said, but because of what it represents. St. John also affirmed that we must not make images of the unseen God, and cannot depict mysteries God has not shown us. But when Christ took on flesh, God deliberately made the Lord visible.

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of God the Creator, we will have the opportunity to reverence or venerate icons as we enter the church. Candles are available to light and place before an icon. I have written a candle lighting prayer adapted from the longer version used on Mount Athos. You may wish to cross yourself (three times is customary) as you gaze ‘through’ the icon, knowing that the figure represented is alive in heaven, joined in the prayer and worship of God throughout all eternity. Use the icon as a window to heaven, expressing all that is on your heart to God through the icon. And then be open to hearing what God might be saying to you through the icon.

205 North Avenue, E, Cranford NJ 07016
 Parish Phone: (908) 276-4047
 Email: TrinityCranford@gmail.com



The Rev. Andrew David Kruger, Rector
 Personal Cell: (609) 933-5227
 Email: fr.andrew.kruger@gmail.com



Website: TrinityCranford.org
Instagram: [@trinity_cranford_1872](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_cranford_1872)
Facebook: [Trinity Episcopal Church, Cranford](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityEpiscopalChurchCranford)



[Donate to Trinity Church online and support our many programs](#)
 Scan the QR code to go to Trinity’s website and view this bulletin online
 Connect to Online Services and Meetings: us04web.zoom.us/j/595488321
 Meeting ID: 595 488 3214 / Password: 1872