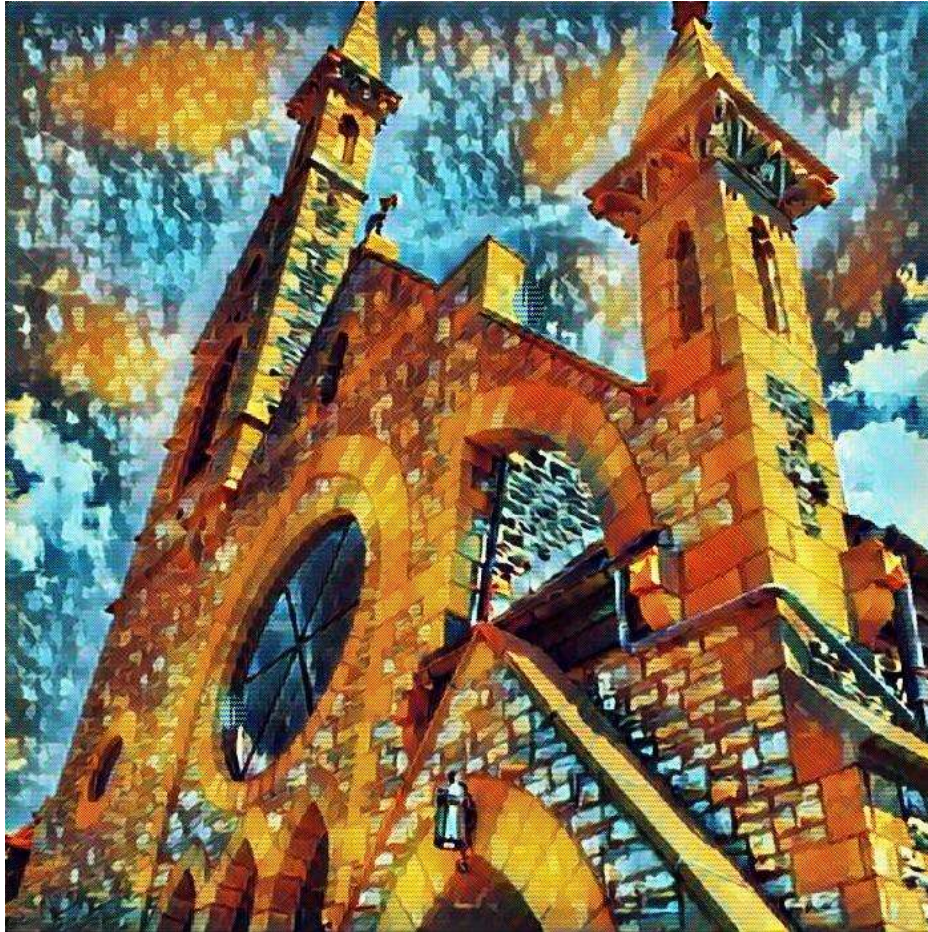


# This Week at Trinity

*the Episcopal Church for Downtown Parkersburg and beyond*

May 4, 2024



## Happening Now

*"May the Fourth be with you!"*

UPCOMING  
EVENTS



**Coolebah! Another big weekend at Trinity!** We will welcome Quinn Currey (granddaughter of Jennifer Currey, daughter of and niece of (Currey) into the Church as she is baptized.

Even as it is a day of welcome, it is a day of good byes as this will be Fr. Charles' last Sunday. Come bid him farewell as he says good bye to Trinity. One in, one out!

Come and be part of the meet and greet! There's cake!

**Feeding Ministry** Mondays. Set-up begins at 8a and meal served at 11a. We need you to help feed Parkersburg's most vulnerable.

**The Tuesday Men's Breakfast** resumes meeting at Corner Cafe 8a.

**Life Group** meets Wednesdays at 530p in Conference room.

**Holy Eucharist** with Prayers for Healing, Wednesday at 1215p in Chapel.

**Bible Study** Thursdays at 10a in the Conference Room and online.

**Knitters** Second Thursday after Bible Study.

## May

**5**

Single Service at 1030  
Baptism of Quinn Currey  
Last Sunday  
with Fr. Charles

**11**

530 Holy Communion  
service led by Fr. Gene.

**12**

Mother's Day  
Lay led Morning Prayer

**14**

Men's Breakfast with First  
Lutheran  
Parish Hall

**15**

Last day of Interim

**19**

Pentecost  
Fr. Mackey's  
first Sunday

DOK Meeting 1230  
Conference Room

Discretionary Sunday

**20**

Trinity Times deadline

**27**

Memorial Day

Office Closed



***Christ is taken from the Cross***

*Wiktoria Gorynska  
Woodcut*

[www.sacredartpilgrim.com](http://www.sacredartpilgrim.com)

This image was used as Station 13 in a art show John Kohan and I put up way back in 2011 at S Peter's in Delaware.

But art being art and whose duty is to show things on many levels and ways makes this piece profound with the dark space in the middle, framed by this man and woman.

The deep empty space, the passageway looking dark hole is indeed just that. A passageway.

For what the artist is telling us, showing us are two things here. The tomb, yes, with the dead Jesus. And Jesus cradled above it gives us foreshadowing. He is (or will be) above it.

But the woman holding Jesus, cradling him, is Mary. And then that seemingly empty space can be seen not only as tomb, but also as womb.

The profoundness of this piece then, for me, is how Gorynska reveals the truth that life continues through the

This image has always been a favorite of mine ever since I first came face to face with it in 2011.

You can see why it was used for the Stations of the Cross exhibit. It is number 13: Christ is taken from the Cross. In it we see Jesus being held by one of the women who remained and did not flee from the scene of the crime,

passageways Christ goes through with us.

Womb and Tomb and everything in between. And, with Christ, everything beyond and through the opened door of G-d's love.

Greetings,

A few weeks ago I announced to the crowds gathered that my left knee had called in sick that weekend. Being short staffed I resorted to using a cane for part of the weekend. Then to compound things, I developed a sty in my right eye.

I appreciated and give thanks for the concern expressed by everyone. From the stage whispered "are you okay?" from my fellow servers, to the kind offers of help and more concern from everyone else. My knees are plagued with arthritis and who knows about the sty. Both are on the mend. Or at least returning to familiar operational limits.

It is not lost on me that I was struck by these ailments as we, as I approach the end of my time at Trinity. It is not lost on me that what was struck: the ability to move and to see. Paging Dr. Freud. Or, maybe Jung. Or maybe great Aunt Carol who always has something to offer with the trademarked, "if you ask me, which you didn't".

If I were grandiose, I'd say that my knee thing at this time is akin to Jacob wrestling as he sought to move into a new phase of life. Or, more humbly, with the eye thing, any of the amazingly graceful stories of vision being restored to the blind in the gospels.

But let's make this a cautionary tale. For in treating and dealing, and working with these hindrances, I noticed something. There is a voice. A quiet one, a soothing one. An indulgent one. One that makes sense and seems so reasonable. And right.

A voice that used words, such as, "Well, you've done a lot. Take it easy." or "Wow, that does hurt, maybe sit for a bit more" and "Geez, you've come such a long way, you deserve to stay put for awhile". Why so much moving around? Haven'ts you seen enough?" What more is there?"

As I noted, pretty reasonable. Pretty practical. Even, too, peaceful in its reasoning. There is a desire, to which we all would agree that when we reach a spot, we might want to say, this is far enough. And we may want to hear such affirming words.

But that voice. It's very quiet so much so that often only we can hear it. Soft, supple, seductive, it is not preaching peace. Or rest. Or even care. It is a voice that is seeking control. Speaking limits and limitations. Walls and not wonder. Status quo and seeing more. Incarceration and not Incarnation. Routine over resurrection.

The cautionary piece I take away is the reminder that G-d has never once said stay here. And that G-d speaks loudly and clearly. From the sheer silence of 1 Kings, to the crying outburst in Bethlehem. In the shouts of 'Hosanna' and in the cry from the Cross. In the shouts, songs, prayers and people of the Church. When it is on the move.

The cautionary piece for us is that even as we come to a point where things seem ended or finished, and we can return to "normal" something else is going to happen. And the only normal thing is that G-d is all about making new that which had once (believed) itself to have grown old and things that seemed to be cast down are being raised up.

I've ridden about 100 miles over the past few days. I can see clearly now the sty has gone. And I've moved a bit through Nathan Baxter's spiritual hallway to what's next. And you all got stuff to do, too.

In the days ahead we will learn (again) that with Christ life is changed and not ended.

So let's embrace it with a loud and proud "Alleluia"!

See you around the Church. And thanks.

Charles +

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