



**Evensong &
Consecration
of the Chapel**

Sunday, February 12, 2017, 4 p.m.

The sanctuary of Trinity Church Boston is one of the great artistic treasures of America. But it's not a museum. It exists to be used, to be lived in, to help the church give glory to God. Everything about it both points toward and participates in God's presence. Each of us probably has our favorite aspect of the sanctuary, our favorite stained-glass window or ornamental embellishment. My own favorite is the gilded, domed ceiling over the chancel; more accurately, it's the space the ceiling contains. Being inside Trinity's sanctuary feels to me like standing on a mountaintop or on the ocean. Its serene spaciousness brings me to my knees, literally and figuratively, exulting that "there's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea." This is one way I fall in love with God.

Despite its majesty and fame, Trinity's sanctuary is also not the same thing as Trinity Church. We are Trinity Church: all of us, young and old, those who have passed into God's full embrace and those not yet born. All of us who fall in love with God here and work to realize God's vision for the world, together, in this particular place and time and form—we are Trinity Church. Our sanctuary exists to house and hold up our worship and ministries. And for a long time, we as a congregation have begun to feel the need for a space that might bring us into different ways of knowing God than our sanctuary fosters.

A delicious meal can be eaten around a simple wooden table in a kitchen, surrounded by aromas of the pantry and children's drawings on the fridge; a meal served in a formal dining room bedecked with crystal and china might be equally delicious, but will necessarily have a different flavor. We can seek nourishment in different ways within different spaces. Many of us who love Trinity wait all year for the glorious pageantry of the Easter Vigil, when we move together through the darkness of Jesus' death into the astonishing experience of his resurrected life. And on that night we rejoice in the blessing of a sanctuary that heightens our sense of God's majesty and grandeur. But at times of deep vulnerability, we might not wish for the company of a thousand of our closest friends. We might need, instead, to know that God is intimately with us, closer than our own breath. We might long for a sacred space that points us toward the God who holds us in her strong arms and does not let us go.

We dream that this new chapel will become a place where we can all come to know God in myriad new ways. I imagine intimate worship services of healing and reconciliation being held, psalms being chanted during daily prayer, the gracious silence of a few gathered together for silent contemplation. I imagine the lonely and lost finding an unnameable comfort here; I imagine young people learning to claim Christianity in their own way through experimentation, finding that worship can be playful as well as ponderous; I imagine gathering in joy to give thanks for a child, an engagement, a recovery. I hope for all these things, and more. And I know—because this is how God works—that the ways we come to know God in this chapel will be far more beautiful than anything I can imagine.

For more reading from Mary Davenport Davis, Minister for Youth and Social Media, visit our *Vested Interest* blog at trinitychurchboston.org/blog/vested-interest.

*A staffed Coat Room is available in the Parish House Lower Level Room A from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.
The Nursery is open from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Parish House.*

Evensong

Prelude *Appartion de l'église éternelle (Vision of the eternal church)*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Hymn 636 *Please stand and join in singing all hymns.*

How firm a foundation (*Foundation*)

Preces and Responses, in the Mixolydian Mode

Richard Webster (b. 1952)

Opening prayers are sung by the officiant and choir as the representative voice of the congregation.

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm 84 *Be seated. Sung by the choir to an Anglican chant by C. H. H. Parry (1848-1918).*

O how amiable are thy dwellings *
thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord *
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young *
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house *
they will be always praising thee.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee *
in whose heart are thy ways.

Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well *
and the pools are filled with water.

They will go from strength to strength *
and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God our defender *
and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

For one day in thy courts *
is better than a thousand.

I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God *
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

For the Lord God is a light and defence *
the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.

O Lord God of hosts *
blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

First Reading *Remain seated.*

1 Samuel 6:12-15,17-19

The cows went straight in the direction of Beth-shemesh along one highway, lowing as they went; they turned neither to the right nor to the left, and the lords of the Philistines went after them as far as the border of Beth-shemesh. Now the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley. When they looked up and saw the ark, they went with rejoicing to meet it. The cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh, and stopped there. A large stone was there; so they split up the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt-offering to the Lord. The Levites took down the ark of the Lord and the box that was beside it, in which were the gold objects, and set them upon the large stone. Then the people of Beth-shemesh offered burnt-offerings and presented sacrifices on that day to the Lord. These are the gold tumours, which the Philistines returned as a guilt-offering to the Lord: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron; also the gold mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both fortified cities and unwalled villages. The great stone, beside which they set down the ark of the Lord, is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat, in A Major *Please stand.*

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The text may be found on p. 65 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Second Reading *Be seated.*

Revelation 21:2-7

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Nunc Dimittis, in A Major *Please stand.*

Stanford

The text may be found on p. 66 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Third Reading *Be seated.*

Matthew 7:13-14,24-25

'Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.'

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 360

Only-begotten, Word of God eternal (*Rouen*)

Apostles' Creed *Remain standing. Spoken by all.*

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

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.

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. Amen.

The Prayers *Kneel or stand.*

The Prayers are sung by the officiant and choir as the representative voice of the congregation.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages & Collects *Sung by the officiant and choir, offered on behalf of all..*

Webster

Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts

Anthem One thing have I desired of the Lord

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require:

even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle:

yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me,

he shall set me up upon a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up above mine head above mine enemies round about me.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness:

I will sing and speak praises unto the Lord.

Ps 27:4-7

Consecration

Organ Music Processional

William Mathias (1934-1992)

*The congregation joins the procession downstairs to the chapel during the organ music.
Ushers will help direct the people.*

Psalm 122 *Sung by the choir to an Anglican chant by William Henry Harris (1883-1973).*

I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.
For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

When all are ready, the Bishop says the following:

Through the ages, Almighty God has moved his people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of his holy Word and Sacraments. With gratitude for the building of this chapel in Trinity Church in the City of Boston, we are now gathered to dedicate and consecrate it in God's Name.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for making us in your image, to share in the ordering of your world. Receive the work of our hands in this place, now to be set apart for your worship, the building up of the living, and the remembrance of the dead, to the praise and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Knocking at the door of the chapel, the Bishop says:

Let the door be opened.

The door is opened. With the pastoral staff the Bishop marks the threshold with the sign of the cross saying

Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Anthem *Composed for this occasion by Richard Webster.*

*Locus iste a Deo factus est,
inæstimabile sacramentum,
irreprehensibilis est.*

This place was made by God,
a priceless sacrament;
it is without reproach.

The text is from the Gradual for the dedication of a church and incorporates the 12th century Gregorian chant for this text.

Prayer for the Consecration of the Chapel

The congregation standing, the Bishop begins the Prayer for the Consecration of the Chapel:

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
The maker of heaven and earth.

Let us pray.

Everliving Father, watchful and caring, our source and our end: All that we are and all that we have is yours. Accept us now, as we dedicate this place to which we come to praise your Name, to ask your forgiveness, to know your healing power, to hear your Word, and to be nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son. Be present always to guide and to judge, to illuminate and to bless your people.

The Senior Warden continues:

Lord Jesus Christ, make this a temple of your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek you in this place. Draw us to you, when we come alone and when we come with others, to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, to rejoice and give thanks. May it be here, Lord Christ, that we are made one with you and with one another, so that our lives are sustained and sanctified for your service.

The Rector continues:

Holy Spirit, open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts, that we may grow closer to you through joy and through suffering. Be with us in the fullness of your power as new members are added to your household, as we grow in grace through the years, when we are joined in marriage, when we turn to you in sickness or special need, and, at the last, when we are committed into the Father's hands.

The Bishop concludes:

Now, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, sanctify this place; **For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.**
Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; **And you are exalted as head over all. Amen.**

The Bishop proceeds to the Lectern, lays a hand upon it, and says:

Father, your eternal Word speaks to us through the words of Holy Scripture. Here we read about your mighty acts and purposes in history, and about those whom you chose as the agents of your will. Inspired by the revelation of your Son, we seek your present purposes. Give us ears to hear and hearts to obey.

May the words of our mouth, and the meditation of our heart,

Be acceptable to you, O Lord our God.

Father, in every age you have spoken through the voices of prophets, pastors, and teachers. Purify the lives and the lips of those who speak here, that your word only may be proclaimed, and your word only may be heard.

Your word is a lantern to our feet,

And a light upon our path.

We dedicate this Lectern and Pulpit in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the gifts of your people, and for the work of many hands, which have beautified this place and furnished it for the celebration of your holy mysteries. Accept and bless all we have done, and grant that in these earthly things we may behold the order and beauty of things heavenly; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop then says:

Let us now pray for the setting apart of the Altar.

The Bishop goes to the Table and, with arms extended, says:

We praise you, Almighty and eternal God, that for us and for our salvation, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be born among us, that through him we might become your sons and daughters.

Blessed be your Name, Lord God.

We praise you for his life on earth, and for his death upon the cross, through which he offered himself as a perfect sacrifice.

Blessed be your Name, Lord God.

We praise you for raising him from the dead, and for exalting him to be our great High Priest.

Blessed be your Name, Lord God.

We praise you for sending your Holy Spirit to make us holy, and to unite us in your holy Church.

Blessed be your Name, Lord God.

The Bishop lays a hand upon the Table, and continues:

Lord God, hear us. Sanctify this Table dedicated to you. Let it be to us a sign of the heavenly Altar where your saints and angels praise you for ever. Accept here the continual recalling of the sacrifice of your Son. Grant that all who eat and drink at this holy Table may be fed and refreshed by his flesh and blood, be forgiven for their sins, united with one another, and strengthened for your service.

Blessed be your Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; now and for endless ages. Amen.

Bishop's Blessing

Hymn *Sung in harmony.*

Love Divine, all loves excelling (*Hyfrydol*)

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Dismissal

All are invited to continue the celebration in the Commons and Forum.