

**TRINITY CATHEDRAL
OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY**



**FEBRUARY 15, 2026 – THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY – YEAR A
10:00 AM - THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO**

CELEBRATING DEAN RENÉ RORY JOHN AND MRS. ANDREA JOHN

**CELEBRANT - THE VERY REV. RENÉ JOHN
PREACHER – THE REV. CN. RICARDO W. SHEPPARD**

Our Vision:

A visible agent of God's love in Christ, joyfully embracing all people.

Our Mission:

God is here; Jesus loves you.

We are a welcoming, diverse community sharing God's love,
Spreading the Gospel and caring for all people and God's creation.
Come join us.

801 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618
Phone (609) 392-3805; Fax (609) 392-2305

www.TrinityCathedralNJ.org

The Very Rev. René Rory John, Dean

WELCOME! We're honored that you're worshipping with us today. If you're not familiar with our Episcopal worship service, we hope this service bulletin will help. Masks are optional within the Cathedral buildings. Please use the hand sanitizer that is provided throughout the building before and after touching any surfaces. Thank you for helping us to remain as safe as possible while enjoying in-person worship.

Please stand as indicated and be seated for lessons

Prelude

Dr. Kerry Heimann, organ

All stand, as able

Processional Hymn

Hymnal # 618

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

All sing

Hymnal # S-278

Gloria in Excelsis

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated

First Reading

Lector: Anna Shields

A Reading from the book of Exodus (24:12-18)

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated; sung by the Choir

Edwin George Monk

- 1 Why are the 'nations in 'an' uproar? *
Why do the peoples' mutter 'empty 'threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes' plot to 'gether, *
against the 'LORD and a'gainst his A'nointed?
- 3 "Let us break their' yoke," they' say; *
"let us cast' off their' bo*nd*s from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in 'heaven is 'laughing; *
the Lord 'has them 'in de'rision.
- 5 Then he speaks to 'them in 'his 'wrath, *
and his 'räge 'fills them with 'terror.
- 6 "I myself have' set my' king *
upon my' holy 'hill of 'Zion."
- 7 Let me announce the de'cree of 'the' LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son;
this day' häve 'I be'gotten you."
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for' your in'heritance *
and the ends of the 'earth for' your pos'session.

†9 You shall crush them with an'iron'rod *
and shatter them'like a'piece of'pottery."

10 And now, you'kings, be'wise; *
be warned, you'rulers'of the'earth.

11 Submit to the'LORD with'fear, *
and with'trembling'bow be'fore him;

12 Lest he be'angry and you'perish; *
for his'wrath is'quickly'kindled.

13 Happy'are they'all *
— 'who take'refuge in'him!

Remain seated

Second Reading

Lector: John Gummere

A Reading from the Second letter of Peter (2 Peter 1:16-21)

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand, as able

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal # 129

Christ Upon the Mountain Peak

Remain standing

The Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days after Peter had acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

**The Rev. Cn. Ricardo W. Sheppard
Canon for Discipleship,
Diocese of Virginia**

Solo

My Good Lord's Done Been Here
Traditional Spiritual
Juanita Faulkner, soprano

All stand as able and say together

A Statement of Faith based on Galatians 3:26-28

Celebrant: Let us renew our pledge to work for unity, justice, and peace.

We are all children of God.

There is no longer Jew or Greek.

There is no longer slave or free.

There is no longer male and female.

For we are all one.

We believe Jesus lived for this and died for this.

We pledge ourselves with God's help and the support of each other to make this become a reality.

Remain standing
Nicene Creed

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.

Remain standing
Prayers of the People
The Lector and People pray responsively

Lector: Cn. Terry Cooper

Deacon: Let us pray to God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness and whose glory is like a devouring fire, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lector: That the church may be continually uplifted by the vision of the king in all his beauty, we rescued from all fear, and in confidence face the future: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: That the church may be conformed to Christ the Son of God, share his sufferings, become like him in his death, and know the power of his resurrection: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We remember God's holy catholic church, including Sean, our Presiding Bishop and Primate; Sally, our Bishop; René, Dean of this Cathedral; Bruce, John, Peter and Noel, priest associates; Christopher, our Deacon, along with all other ministers in this congregation, lay and ordained; Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Philip, the Archbishop-Elect of the West Indies, and all Anglican Christians around the world, especially the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, and for our brothers and sisters in this diocese, including Joe Morris, Sylvestre and William, retired Bishops, the Ministry of Acolytes, and the Rev. Robert L. Counselman: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: That your people may hear the prophets' testimony, see you clearly in the records of those who were eyewitnesses of your majesty, and do your will, preparing for your glorious coming on the Last Day: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We remember those with whom we give thanks, especially those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week: **Bruce Boczar, Meghan Lewis, Savannah Carly Tolan, Antonio James Tolan and Marlene Porter:** Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: That the nations of the earth may more and more perfect the rule of law and administer justice after the example of Moses, the lawgiver and judge of your people: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We commend to your prayers this day all persons deployed in the service of our country. May they dwell safely under the protection of Almighty God: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: That the church may heed the call of God in Christ Jesus to descend from the heights of vision and to serve those who are needy, desolate, and forgotten: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: That the suffering, the lonely, the disconsolate, the dying, and those who mourn may know the transforming light of your presence: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We remember before you those who are sick, or in any other special need, especially the residents of Hamilton Grove Care and Rehabilitation Center; along with **the People of Ukraine and Russia, the People of Israel, Palestine and Iran, the People of Haiti, the people of Sudan, especially the Darfur region, Andrew McDonald, Darryl Francomacaro, Vicky Jones, Mike Bernardo, Georgianna Aiken, Roy Carty, Kwenci Jones, Marsha Reed, Elvis Whiteman, Margaret Whiteman, Thomas Keith Adams, Sabrina Radix, Chief Petty Officer Andrew Johnson, Steven Erdy, Pat Hawkins, Agnes L., the Norris family and friends, Nancy Guthrie and the Guthrie family, Ann Marie Paisley, John Claude Raines, the Sykes family, Frederick M. Walton, Kyle Walton, and Joel Walton and the Walton family:** Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: That the whole church may persevere in the proclamation of the gospel until the day dawns and Christ, the morning star who knows no setting, arises, that all the world may walk in his light: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We remember those who have died, especially **Jubilant Sykes, Alvin "Black Jack" Bowens, Pamela Mason Swanson, Donald Ellison, Amarachi Ngozi Okere**, the victims of violence in our neighborhoods, and the victims of the ongoing wars around the world: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Silence, as the people add their own petitions.

Celebrant: Arise, O Morning Star, and in your rising lift us to behold with all the saints the majestic glory of God, so that through the shadows and darkness of this world we may ever press toward the glory of the world to come, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, God forever. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 360

Please remain in your pew for the Peace.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Holy Communion

Please remain seated while Ushers collect the offertory

Offertory Anthem

He Never Failed Me Yet

Robert Ray

Bernard McMullan, bass

Absalom Jones Inspirational Choir

Offertory Hymn

Hymnal # 438

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, food donations to the Cathedral Food Pantry, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or Celebrant.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Chalice bearer: Judith Miller

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds . . .

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People: **Hymnal # S-128**

Sanctus

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues . . .

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray . . .

Celebrant and People:

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.

Fraction

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

Then may be said . . .

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Hymnal # S-165

Agnus Dei

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All Baptized Christians are welcome to make their Communion at the Lord's table.

Communion Solo

My Tribute

Andraé Crouch

Juanita Faulkner, soprano

Communion Hymn

Hymnal # 137

O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

Hymnal # 307

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

Blessing

Celebrant: May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Dr. Kerry Heimann, organ

WE WELCOME OUR GUEST PREACHER, REV. CN. RICARDO W. SHEPPARD



The Rev. Canon Ricardo W. Sheppard serves as Canon for Discipleship in the Diocese of Virginia, where he works alongside clergy and lay leaders to deepen faith formation, cultivate discipleship, and strengthen congregational life across the diocese. His ministry centers on helping individuals and communities discern how God is calling them to grow, serve, and be faithful disciples of Christ.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Canon Sheppard served honorably for over nine years in the United States Marine Corps before discerning a call to ordained ministry. Prior to entering the Episcopal Church, he served in youth and outreach ministry at Hebron Baptist Church in Brooklyn, where his love for preaching, teaching, and pastoral care was first nurtured. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from the College of New Rochelle, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Diploma in Anglican Studies from the University of the South (Sewanee).

Canon Sheppard has served as Priest-in-Charge of St. Albans Episcopal Church in New Jersey and as Rector of The Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Washington, DC, before being called to diocesan leadership. He remains deeply committed to equipping lay people for ministry, proclaiming the Gospel with clarity and hope.

It is especially meaningful for him to return to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, the parish from which he was received and ordained, to preach at this service honoring The Very Rev. Rene Rory John, whose leadership and ministry have shaped him, Trinity Cathedral, the Trenton community and the wider church.

WE WELCOME JUANITA FAULKNER, OUR GUEST MUSICIAN



Juanita Faulkner, soprano, was born and raised in East Elmhurst, NY. Having studied with several renowned coaches of the Metropolitan Opera and other operatic venues, she is a much in demand concert artist. She has toured the United States extensively, performed in city parks and plazas throughout New England, the midwest, the South and California. Her New York appearances include several performances at the Lincoln Center, Cami Hall and Symphony Space. Her international credits include Italy, Greece, Turkey, Switzerland, Canada, Nigeria and the Caribbean Islands.

Critics have described Juanita's voice as the 'perfect Verdi instrument. Her vocal interpretations of Verdi's most celebrated heroines Aida, Lenora ("La Forza Del Destino") and Amelia ("Un Ballo in Maschera") are said by many to be amongst the finest of today's artists. "She is well known for her bright, easy smile and warm, genuine personality as she is for her beautifully dramatic voice. Juanita is loved by all who hear her and see her." (Pittsburgh Chronicle)

**TRINITY CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 15, 2026 ~ LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**



Following Christ, joining the Cathedral – We invite you to accept the invitation to follow Christ, to become a Christian and to become a member of Trinity Cathedral. We encourage you to fill in one of the pew cards and place it in the offering plate, or please contact one of the clergy.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lectors for the 10:00 am Mass on 2/22 are:

Youth for Family Sunday

Chalice bearer – Cn. Phil Lewis

The Ushers/Greeters for Sunday, 2/22 (4th Sunday) are:

Edward Greenfield (Greeter/Usher) & Samuel Richards (alternate)

If you haven't already, please add you name and wishes to the card for René & Andrea – it will be available in Synod Hall after Mass.

Join us on Thursday, February 26 at 5:00 pm for the Stations of the Cross in All Saints' Chapel.
We have not walked the stations of the cross together, in person, since prior to the pandemic. We would love to see you there!

Year-end pledge statements have been mailed for you use when filing tax returns. If you have a mailbox here at the Cathedral office, your statement is in your box – please come visit.

The Altar Guild Shop will be open on the 3rd Sunday of March.

If you are looking for a way to become more involved with the operation of our Cathedral, please see the volunteer bulletin board just inside the parking lot doors. Here you will find posted opportunities to volunteer at the Cathedral, big and small. If you would like to advertise a volunteer opportunity, you can create your own flyer or use the form on the literature table in the main hallway.

Join us on Sunday, February 22 at 3:00 pm for a return performance by the fabulous Keith Spencer! - From the mournful call of the Negro spiritual to the cry of protest and purpose signifying the African-American experience from the mid-1950s to late 1960s, We Shall Not Be Moved presents the music that captured the essence and call of the Civil Rights Movement. This inspiring concert experience presents popular songs and poignant readings from leaders, activists, and spokespersons of the time associated with the Civil Rights cause calling to mind the struggle and promise of what was to come. You'll hear songs such as "Oh, Freedom!", "People Get Ready", "Go Down, Moses", "The Times They Are A-Changin'", "Lift Every Voice And Sing", "A Change Is Gonna Come", and many celebrated others. **Performances from this series have received rave reviews from audiences of every color and demographic.** See the flyer in your bulletin for more details.

The next Food Pantry distribution date is – Saturday, February 28th (2nd & 4th Saturdays this month) from 9-11:00 am. Each Thursday, we distribute hot dinners "to go" from 4:15–5:30pm at the Overbrook Avenue entrance as a satellite location for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen.

Cathedral Arts Series of Trinity Cathedral Presents

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

SONGS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

with soloist



KEITH SPENCER

SUNDAY FEB. 22, 2026

**TRINITY CATHEDRAL
801 W. STATE STREET, TRENTON, NJ**

**STARTS AT 3:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 2:30 PM**

**\$30 TICKETS FOR ADULTS
\$10 TICKETS FOR STUDENTS**

