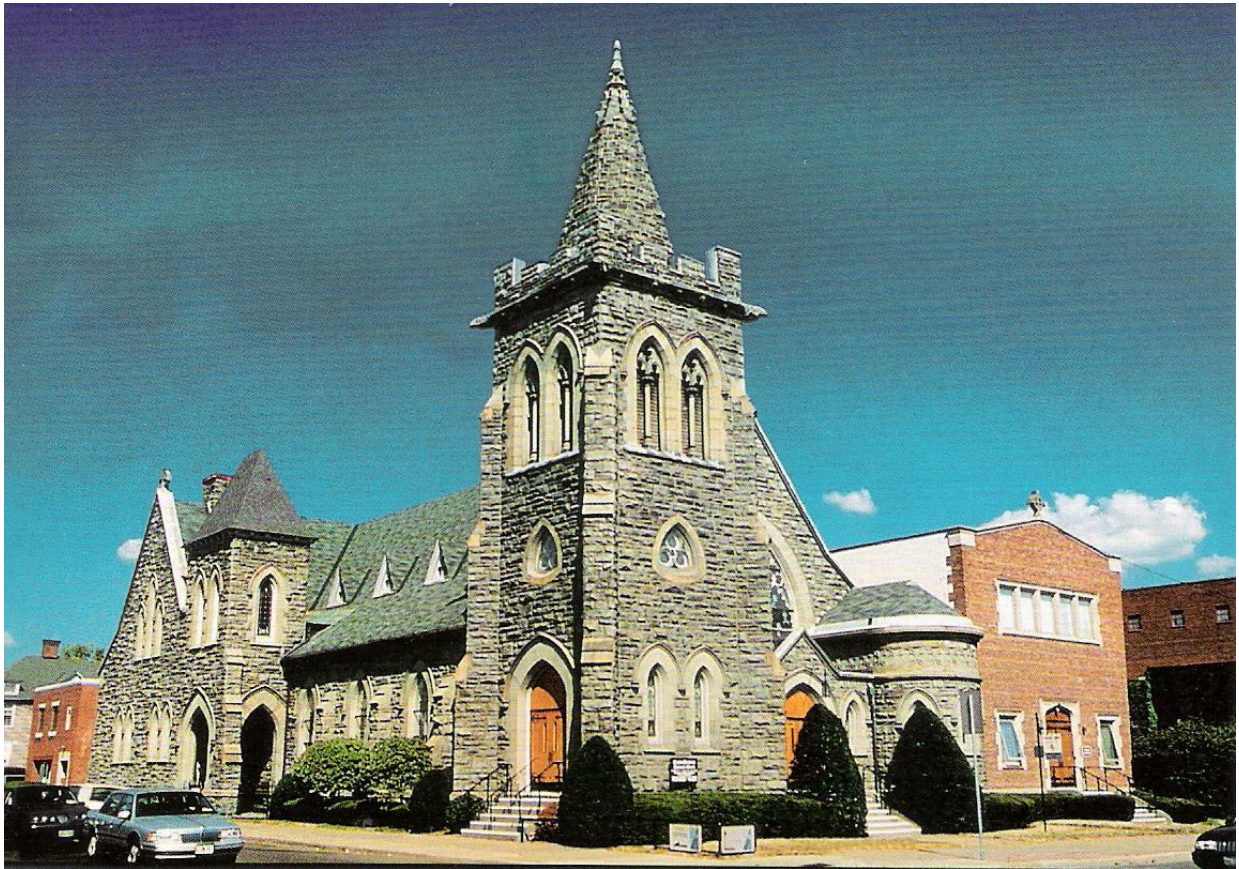


# **Trinity Memorial Church**

**Binghamton, New York**

## **Parish Profile**

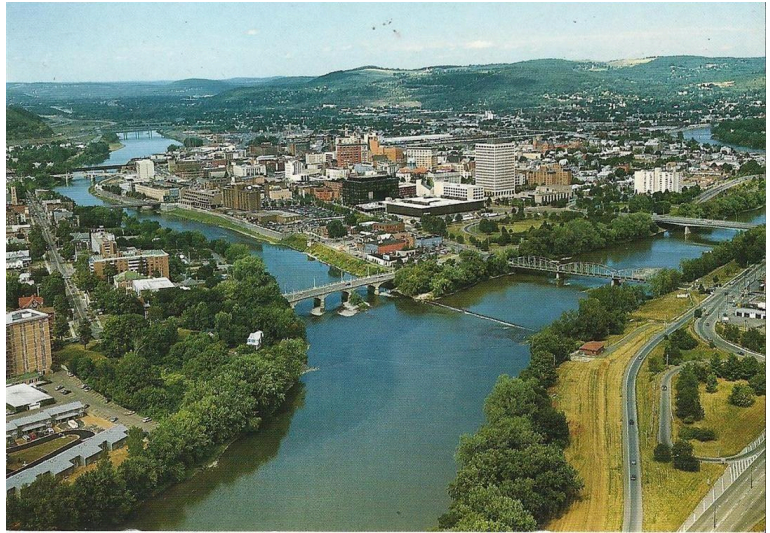
**2025**



Trinity Memorial Church in the 1960s; from a postcard

## Trinity Memorial Church and Binghamton, NY

Trinity Memorial Church, an Episcopal parish in the Diocese of Central New York, is a historic, downtown church in Binghamton, NY, a city of 46,000 and the hub of a metropolitan area of almost 200,000 people. Located at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers and surrounded by rolling hills, Binghamton came to prominence as a transportation hub and the core city in a technology manufacturing center.



(IBM was founded nearby; flight simulators were invented by the Link corporation's engineers.) In recent years, it has emerged as a center for healthcare and education; Binghamton University is a nationally renowned research university with 18,000 students.

The region's cultural offerings are many: professional groups such as Binghamton Philharmonic and Tri-Cities Opera; numerous accomplished community musical and theatrical organizations; a multitude of museums; an Arts district with The Forum, a historic performance venue, which hosts local and traveling groups; restaurants, and many nearby state and local parks.



Founded in 1886, Trinity Memorial's congregation is affirming and diverse, united by a love of traditional Episcopal worship and music, concern for one another and visitors, and a commitment to engagement with the community, particularly the urban community in which it is located.



# Worship



Worship is at the heart of our church life. We see ourselves as theologically progressive, with a keen interest in understanding the New Testament in its historical context, and a healthy

appreciation for differences in opinions.

Attendance averages around eighty-five people per week, including those who attend the 10:00 service online. For a decade, we have been blessed with a priest who has

instructed and inspired us through his sermons and his contagious sense of joy. He has been supported by an array of lectors, worship leaders, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, and digital ministers.

Trinity is known throughout the region for the excellence of its musical program, which is frequently cited by members as a major reason for their

joining the church. The choir of around twenty singers with paid section leaders provides not only the anthems and service music every Sunday, but also Evensong services and occasional concerts. It has performed in Cleveland, Toronto, and twice at the



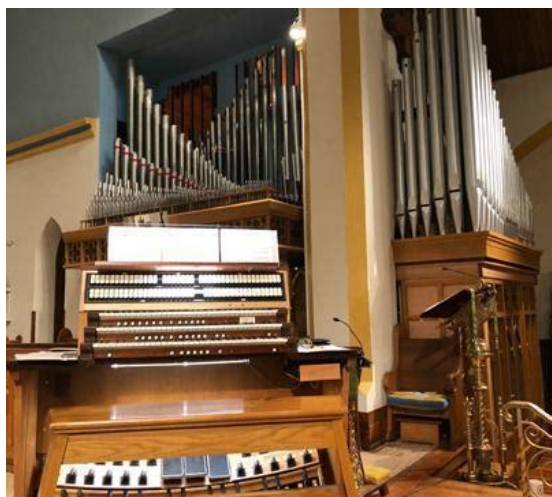
National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.



Our bell choir provides beautiful, often challenging, music when it participates in the Sunday services.







Trinity Memorial's organ, particularly after its expansion in 2018, is considered to be one of the finest in the area.



We welcome occasional concert performances, featuring members with musical skills as well as outside performers and groups.



## Parish

We are a racially diverse community of families and singles, professionals and working people, young and old (though with more old than young), gay and straight, wealthy and



poor. We work at welcoming everyone who walks through our doors, inviting all to our coffee hours, receptions, and occasional church dinners.

We have well-attended weekly adult forums following the 10:00 service, which are hybrid in format and cover a wide range of topics: religious, historical, and social. The variety and success of forums reflect members' high degree of intellectual curiosity.



For the past ten years, we have had a wonderful part-time priest who has provided firm leadership but who could not do many of the things expected of a full-time priest. The parish responded by increasing its already outstanding lay leadership in managing finances, buildings, grounds, and community engagement.



Special mention should be given to our pastoral care team, a group of parishioners led by a lay staff member, which visits hospitalized and home-bound members, offering communion, prayers, and often providing meals for them. Lay members also produce the *Trinity Times*, our monthly newsletter containing information about upcoming services and events, a message from the priest, profiles of parish members, theological reflections, and the like.





## Community

Trinity draws its members from a wide geographical area, but as an urban church, we are confronted by the ills that beset many in American cities and are committed to putting our faith into action. With the help of neighboring congregations (Christian and Jewish), our



Sunday Canteen provides free meals plus bagged lunches to as many as 125 people per week, and we are a monthly center for food bank distributions to all who show up. In the fall the Canteen's meals are enriched with vegetables grown in the church's garden. We have a partnership with the American Civic Association (ACA) and its refugee program, collecting household items of all sorts for use by refugee families and then cataloging them in a spreadsheet, from which the ACA can request specific items.

Our Mission and Ministry Commission provides roughly \$10,000 per year in grants to needy local organizations and groups. This past year, it gave \$5,000 to the ACA for refugee resettlement and was able to supplement that with another \$5,000, thanks to a grant from the diocese. We also provide scholarship grants to church youth attending college.



# The Future

As we continue to serve God in this place, we hope to

- Continue the excellence of our traditional worship and music
- Attract new members, families, and youth to our church, for we are a graying congregation
- Strengthen Christian formation for all ages.

We seek a rector who

- Has a commitment to the historic Christian faith and to the unfolding revelation of the Holy Spirit at work in the Episcopal Church in the 21st century
- Shares our appreciation of liturgy and music
- Is an inspiring preacher and an enlightened teacher
- Is a pastor for people of all ages and circumstances
- Has strong administrative skills and will guide us, walk with us, and love and serve God with us
- Will work with our pastoral care team in providing pastoral care and ministry
- Shares our commitment to community outreach and service
- Will continue to empower lay leadership and volunteers
- Will foster an open, collaborative, and positive environment
- Will love us as we are.

Notes:

A companion video is available at <https://www.trinitymemorial.org/binghamton-and-trinity>

Trinity Memorial's website is at <https://www.trinitymemorial.org>

Trinity Memorial's YouTube channel is at <https://youtube.com/@trinitymemorial>