Illuminating Our CORE VALUES

Faith
Integrity
Inclusiveness
Compassion
Social Justice
Stewardship
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How to Use This Guide

Core Values guide us in carrying out our mission and realizing our vision. By their nature, core values are touchstones for prayer, discernment, ongoing conversation, and action. We seek a deep understanding and ongoing engagement with Trinity’s Core Values of faith, integrity, inclusiveness, compassion, social justice, and stewardship.

We desire that these values constantly define and drive our actions and decisions. To that end, this guide is designed for home devotion and to open small group and committee meetings, staff departmental meetings, vestry meetings, and council meetings, both formal and informal. It can also be used as a measure to keep track of our progress as the whole Trinity community grows to internalize and live our Core Values.

The Mission, Vision, and Core Values are the result of a discernment process involving the entire Trinity community. Year by year, we will continue reflecting on what our Core Values mean in their application, how they challenge and inform decisions and actions in Trinity’s ministries, and how they help our ministries align with our Mission and Vision.

Our prayer is that this booklet will help individuals, the worshipping community, our partners, stakeholders, committees, and every group at Trinity Church Wall Street live our Mission, Vision, and Core Values to the fullest.

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Core Values Prayer

Loving God,
We thank you for calling us to follow you on a spiritual adventure at Trinity Church Wall Street. Give us courage and grace to live our Core Values of faith, integrity, inclusiveness, compassion, social justice, and stewardship.

Guide us, we pray, in our mission to build leadership, neighborhoods, and financial capacity for holy service in New York and throughout the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
TRINITY CHURCH WALL STREET’S 
MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

Mission: In the spirit of the Gospels, the mission of Trinity Church Wall Street is to build generations of faithful leadership, to build up neighborhoods, and to build financial capacity for holy service in New York City and around the world. Our mission is grounded in our Core Values.

Vision: We seek to serve and heal the world by building neighborhoods that live gospel truths, generations of faithful leaders, and sustainable communities.

TRINITY’S Core Values

Faith
For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Matthew 17:20

Integrity
Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

Inclusiveness
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

Compassion
When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

Social Justice
He has showed you what is good; and what the Lord requires of you: to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Stewardship
There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the world.

Genesis 41:29-30

Our Core Values are Trinity’s DNA—they reveal who we are and act as our code of ethics. They give us a shared language, clarify what we do, give us focus, and keep us and our stakeholders and partners accountable.
Quiet meditation for three minutes

Opening Prayer
Loving God,
We thank you for calling us to follow you on a spiritual adventure at Trinity Church Wall Street.
Give us courage and grace to live our Core Values of faith, integrity, inclusiveness, compassion, social justice, and stewardship.

Guide us, we pray, in our mission to build leadership, neighborhoods, and financial capacity for holy service in New York and throughout the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in 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,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

Psalm 23
1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Choose one of the following readings for reflection before answering the questions.
Readings for Reflection

Individuals and groups are invited to choose one of the following readings for reflection.

Oscar Romero Prayer

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent
enterprise that is God’s work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of
saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church’s mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an
opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master
builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

—Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw*

*This prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden in November
1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Oscar Romero,
Bishop Untener included in a reflection book a passage titled “The mystery of the Romero Prayer.” The mystery is that the
words of the prayer are attributed to Bishop Romero, but they were never spoken by him.

Matthew 5:1–16

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on
my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.”

Salt and Light

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer
good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

A Prayer Everyone Can Pray

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me. Nor do I really know myself.
And the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.

And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always,
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death
I will not fear for you are ever with me
and you will never leave me to face my struggles alone.

—Thomas Merton, from Thoughts on Solitude

Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clear blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

—Mary Oliver

Mark 8:22-25

Jesus Cures a Blind Man at Bethsaida

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?” 24 And the man looked up and said, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.” 25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.
The Bridge

By Edwin Friedman

There was a man who had given much thought to what he wanted from life. He had experienced many moods and trials. He had experimented with different ways of living, and he had had his share of both success and failure. At last, he began to see clearly where he wanted to go. Diligently, he searched for the right opportunity. Sometimes he came close, only to be pushed away. Often he applied all his strength and imagination, only to find the path hopelessly blocked. And then at last it came. But the opportunity would not wait. It would be made available only for a short time. If it were seen that he was not committed, the opportunity would not come again.

Eager to arrive, he started on his journey. With each step, he wanted to move faster; with each thought about his goal, his heart beat quicker; with each vision of what lay ahead, he found renewed vigor. Strength that had left him since his early youth returned, and desires, all kinds of desires, reawakened from their long-dormant positions.

Hurrying along, he came upon a bridge that crossed through the middle of a town. It had been built high above a river in order to protect it from the floods of spring. He started across. Then he noticed someone coming from the opposite direction. As they moved closer, it seemed as though the other were coming to greet him. He could see clearly, however, that he did not know this other, who was dressed similarly except for something tied around his waist. When they were within hailing distance, he could see that what the other had about his waist was a rope. It was wrapped around him many times and probably, if extended, would reach a length of 30 feet. The other began to uncurl the rope, and, just as they were coming close, the stranger said, “Pardon me, would you be so kind as to hold the end a moment?” Surprised by this politely phrased but curious request, he agreed without a thought, reached out, and took it.

“Thank you,” said the other, who then added, “two hands now, and remember, hold tight.” Whereupon, the other jumped off the bridge.

Quickly, the free-falling body hurtled the distance of the rope’s length, and from the bridge the man abruptly felt the pull. Instinctively, he held tight and was almost dragged over the side. He managed to brace himself against the edge, however, and after having caught his breath, looked down at the other dangling, close to oblivion.

“What are you trying to do?” he yelled.

“Just hold tight,” said the other.

“This is ridiculous,” the man thought and began trying to haul the other in. He could not get the leverage, however. It was as though the weight of the other person and the length of the rope had been carefully calculated in advance so that together they created a counterweight just beyond his strength to bring the other back to safety.

“Why did you do this?” the man called out.

“Remember,” said the other, “if you let go, I will be lost.”

“But I cannot pull you up,” the man cried.

“I am your responsibility,” said the other.

“Well, I did not ask for it,” the man said.

“If you let go, I am lost,” repeated the other.

He began to look around for help. But there was no one. How long would he have to wait? Why did this happen to befall him now, just as he was on the verge of true success? He examined the side, searching for a place to tie the rope. Some protrusion, perhaps, or maybe a hole in the boards. But the railing was unusually uniform in shape; there were no spaces between the boards. There was no way to get rid of this newfound burden, even temporarily.
“What do you want?” he asked the other hanging below.

“Just your help,” the other answered.

“How can I help? I cannot pull you in, and there is no place to tie the rope so that I can go and find someone to help me help you?”

“I know that. Just hang on; that will be enough. Tie the rope around your waist; it will be easier.” Fearing that his arms could not hold out much longer, he tied the rope around his waist.

“Why did you do this?” he asked again. “Don’t you see what you have done? What possible purpose could you have had in mind?”

“Just remember,” said the other, “my life is in your hands.”

What should he do? “If I let go, all my life I will know that I let this other die. If I stay, I risk losing my momentum toward my own long-sought-after salvation. Either way this will haunt me forever.” With ironic humor he thought to die himself, instantly, to jump off the bridge while still holding on. “That would teach this fool.” But he wanted to live and to live life fully. “What a choice I have to make; how shall I ever decide?”

As time went by, still no one came. The critical moment of decision was drawing near. To show his commitment to his own goals, he would have to continue on his journey now. It was already almost too late to arrive in time. But what a terrible choice to have to make.

A new thought occurred to him. While he could not pull this other up solely by his own efforts, if the other would shorten the rope from his end by curling it around his waist again and again, together they could do it. Actually, the other could do it by himself, so long as he, standing on the bridge, kept it still and steady.

“What do you mean?” the other asked, afraid.

“I mean, simply, it’s up to you. You decide which way this ends. I will become the counterweight. You do the pulling and bring yourself up. I will even tug a little from here.”

He began unwinding the rope from around his waist and braced himself anew against the side.

“You cannot mean what you say,” the other shrieked. “You would not be so selfish. I am your responsibility. What could be so important that you would let someone die? Do not do this to me.”

He waited a moment. There was no change in the tension of the rope.

“I accept your choice,” he said, at last, and freed his hands.

The End
Isaiah 61

The Good News of Deliverance

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the Lord love justice…

Luke 4:16–21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”
Reflection Questions for Journaling

I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don’t search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

—Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903 in Letters to a Young Poet

Please reflect on the following questions. You are encouraged to write out your responses.

Core Values Questions:

Core Values are our guiding principles upon which we make our decisions and determine our actions and choices. With that definition in mind, consider these questions:

• How is God calling you to be in community with one another?
• What values do you bring to the worshipping community of Trinity Church Wall Street?
• What values do you want to see us live at Trinity?
• Is the value authentic? In your opinion, does it describe Trinity?
• Does the value provide guidance for your actions and decisions?
• Are there other values you always want to keep in mind as you live with these chosen values?

Personal Questions:

• What are my values?
• What do I like or dislike about these values named by the vestry, council, congregation, and staff?
• How do my values shape Trinity and the other communities to which I belong?
You are invited to participate in a reflective study of Trinity’s Core Values, considering one value each month and its implications for how we make decisions and live our lives, personally and communally. You may reflect daily on a value or spend a month on each value:

Monday/March: **Faith**
Tuesday/April: **Integrity**
Wednesday/May: **Inclusiveness**
Thursday/June: **Compassion**
Friday/July: **Social Justice**
Saturday/August: **Stewardship**

The series is an opportunity for all Trinity stakeholders—parishioners, staff, neighbors, and partners—to align their personal and communal goals. Questions for reflection on each core value are provided here to guide your spiritual and practical decision-making on behalf of Trinity’s mission and vision.

*Please ask a member of each group to make notes of what is shared, and send questions and recommendations to corevalues@trinitywallstreet.org.*
Begin each study time with a Core Value in the following way:

Quiet meditation for three minutes

**The Lord be with you**
And also with you

**Let us pray**
Loving God,
We thank you for calling us to follow You on a spiritual adventure at Trinity Church Wall Street. Give us courage and grace to live our Core Values of faith, integrity, inclusiveness, compassion, social justice, and stewardship.

Guide us, we pray, in our mission to build leadership, neighborhoods, and financial capacity for holy service in New York and throughout the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in 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,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Psalm 23**

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

**Participants may choose one of the readings from the section beginning on page 5 for reflection.**
**Faith**

“For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” —Matthew 17:20

- How would you define this value?
  - Faith is simply to trust the real, and to trust that God is found within it—even before we change it. To have faith is already to have come alive. “Your faith has saved you” (Luke 18:42). —Richard Rohr
  - Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase. —Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - You must not lose faith in humanity. —Mahatma Gandhi

- Why was this value chosen at Trinity?

- How does it affect your behavior and life?

- Are there actions or behaviors required of you because of this value?

- If Trinity were deeply rooted in this value, what would you need to change in your ministry/life to support our leadership, neighborhood, and capacity for holy service?

- Who has exemplified this value for you recently? How?

**Integrity**

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” —Philippians 4:8

- How would you define this value?
  - In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first, the other two will kill you. —Warren Buffet
  - Integrity largely has to do with purifying our intentions and a growing honesty about our actual motives. It is hard work. —Richard Rohr
  - Integrity is what we do, what we say, and what we say we do. —Don Galer

- Why was this value chosen at Trinity?

- How does it affect your behavior and life?

- Are there actions or behaviors required of you because of this value?

- If Trinity were deeply rooted in this value, what would you need to change in your ministry/life to support our leadership, neighborhood, and capacity for holy service?

- Who has exemplified this value for you recently? How?
**Inclusiveness**

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” —*Galatians 3:28*

- How would you define this value?
  - Spirituality is recognizing and celebrating that we are all inextricably connected to each other by a power greater than all of us, and that our connection to that power and to one another is grounded in love and compassion. Practicing spirituality brings a sense of perspective, meaning, and purpose to our lives. —*Brené Brown*
  - Religion has always been a matter of community building; a matter of building precisely those relations of compassion, fellow feeling and—I dare to use the word—inclusion, which would otherwise be absent from our societies. —*Rowan Williams*

- Why was this value chosen at Trinity?
- How does it affect your behavior and life?
- Are there actions or behaviors required of you because of this value?
- If Trinity were deeply rooted in this value, what would you need to change in your ministry/life to support our leadership, neighborhood, and capacity for holy service?
- Who has exemplified this value for you recently? How?

**Compassion**

“When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

—*Matthew 14:14*

- How would you define this value?
  - Compassionate action involves working with ourselves as much as working with others. —*Pema Chodron*
  - Let us not underestimate how hard it is to be compassionate. Compassion is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to place where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely, and broken. But this is not our spontaneous response to suffering. What we desire most is to do away with suffering by fleeing from it or finding a quick cure for it. —*Henri Nouwen*

- Why was this value chosen at Trinity?
- How does it affect your behavior and life?
- Are there actions or behaviors required of you because of this value?
- If Trinity were deeply rooted in this value, what would you need to change in your ministry/life to support our leadership, neighborhood, and capacity for holy service?
- Who has exemplified this value for you recently? How?
**Social Justice**
“He has showed you what is good; and what the Lord requires of you: to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” —Micah 6:8

• How would you define this value?

  • What we would like to do is change the world—make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do. —Dorothy Day

  • A church that does not provoke any crisis, preach a Gospel that does not unsettle, proclaim a word of God that does not get under anyone’s skin or a word of God that does not touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed: what kind of gospel is that?” —Oscar A. Romero

• Why was this value chosen at Trinity?

• How does it affect your behavior and life?

• Are there actions or behaviors required of you because of this value?

• If Trinity were deeply rooted in this value, what would you need to change in your ministry/life to support our leadership, neighborhood, and capacity for holy service?

• Who has exemplified this value for you recently? How?

**Stewardship**
“There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the world.” —Genesis 41:29-30

• How would you define this value?

  • The power of the future lies not in the hands of those who believe in scarcity but of those who trust God’s abundance. —Walter Brueggemann

  • On the one hand, we are faced with the stewardship of this beautiful, subtle, incredibly delicate, fragile planet. On the other, we confront the destiny of our fellow man, our brothers. How can we say that we are followers of Christ if this dual responsibility does not seem to us the essence and heart of our religion? —Barbara Ward, Baroness Jackson of Lodsworth

  • All must be given its due, but only its due. There should be something of everything and not too much of anything. —Sister Joan Chittister

• Why was this value chosen at Trinity?

• How does it affect your behavior and life?

• Are there actions or behaviors required of you because of this value/ these values?

• If Trinity were deeply rooted in this value, what would you need to change in your ministry/life to support our leadership, neighborhood, and capacity for holy service?

• Who has exemplified this value for you recently? How?