

## A Prayer for Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury, on its 150th Anniversary

Glorious and Gracious God,

Since the time two thousand years ago when your son, Jesus Christ, walked amongst humankind, you have called men and women to be his disciples. This was principally for the proclamation of the Gospel, the coming of the heavenly kingdom, the union of heaven and earth, earth and heaven. To a troubled and searching world the Good News of our Lord speaks of the victory over evil, sin and death and the inauguration under him of the reign of peace, joy, and abundance. Men and women called to be disciples for proclaiming the Good News are who we are and, from the beginning always have been, as members of Trinity Episcopal Church.

By your inspiration and initiative Mary and Lizzie Jones began a Sunday school near here, which in 1876 was incorporated as Trinity Solebury Chapel. In the same year, ground was broken for the chapel building, which still serves 150 years later as a place of worship and gathering.

On this the 150th anniversary of Trinity Episcopal Church, we offer you our hardy thanks as we celebrate all the disciples who over the years have made the Gospel alive by following the example of our Lord, who have devoted their lives to a cause greater than themselves, and who have supported one another in the Christian way of life.

From generation to generation since 1876, you have dwelt with us and made our place of worship holy space. At the same time, you have nurtured and guided the spiritual development of those who worship in the space. As well, you have provided for us as we have continued to do the work you have given us to do as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

By words of hope and promise and by deeds of love and mercy, we have taken the message of him from this place in Solebury Township to places well beyond our walls.

As our perspective has enlarged, so have our resources to serve that perspective enlarged, including new buildings, a full-time rector, a new organ and recently a Steinway grand piano, and becoming a parish church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. You would not let a devastating fire deter us as we moved forward in our mission. All this happened, we believe, according to the plan of divine providence.

All along as by your special grace preceding us, we have received far more than we could ask or imagine and experienced love in measures beyond our deserving or calculating

Today, O God, as we look back with gratitude to you, we honor the traditions that have been established here over the decades and contributed to our identity: the tradition of servant leadership, clerical and lay, the tradition of authentic worship and inspiring music, the tradition of reaching out and ministering to others from the bounty that you have entrusted to us. May the vision of 150 years ago that led eventually to our status as a parish and the goodly heritage we celebrate this year be a foundation of rock for whatever is ahead, until arrives the day of the Lord and the complete fulfillment of your kingdom.

All this we pray through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

JDB - March 1, 2026