

September 27, 2020

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
6800 Washington Avenue  
314.725.3840  
University City, Missouri 63130  
[www.trinityucity.org](http://www.trinityucity.org)

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Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

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[trinityucity.org/sundays](http://trinityucity.org/sundays)

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

#### Prelude

**Sonata 3 in A major, K. 24/L. 413**  
*by Domenico Scarlatti*

#### Welcome & Announcements

Leader: This is a day that God has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

*Time for sharing news of the church.*

#### Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus has called us together in worship this day.

**People: We are gathered virtually from many places,  
although for some of us it was not an easy choice.**

Leader: Often what we say and do are very different.

**People: Help us follow God's will, not with lip service, but with true humility.**

Leader: Now is the time to worship.

**People: Now is the time of healing, restoration, and hope.**

#### Gathering Song

**As Pants the Deer for Living Streams**  
*Glory to God #778, v. 1-4*

#### Invitation to Confession

Leader: Like the chief priests and scribes of Jesus' day,  
we are tempted to confuse our ways for God's way.  
We trust our own authority and defend the way we live  
as if we have earned all that we claim as our own.  
We see the sins of others more readily than we see our own.  
Let us confess our sin as we pray:

**Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

**God of Patience, your people grow weary. We complain and question. We put you to the test. Our mouths say yes, but our deeds say no. When we wander off your path, when we fail to follow through on our good intentions, when we give our attention to trivial things; gently call us back to you.**

**Empty our hearts of anger and pride. Empty our souls of greed and selfishness. Empty our minds of envy, doubt, and mistrust.**

**As you poured out your very self through your Beloved One, pour your Spirit into our hearts today. Forgive us our wrongdoing. Reclaim us with your love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

Leader: God knows our hearts and our spirits.

God sees our struggles and forgives our weakness.

Know that it is in God's healing love that you live and move and have your being.

Rejoice, for God is with you always.

Friends, believe the Good News.

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia!**

**Passing the Peace**

Leader: Since God in Christ Jesus has forgiven us,  
let us forgive one another.

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

Please share the peace of Jesus Christ

with those with whom you are joining us for worship.

**Song of Praise**

**Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

*Glory to God #582, v. 1-2*

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: Loving God, whose messengers have shown us the way of righteousness, and whose revelation in Jesus Christ has demonstrated humble obedience to your will, lead us this day to the joy they have known through serving you, that our witness may be as authentic as theirs and be influential in the lives of all we meet, adding to your Realm in heaven and on earth. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 78

by Michel Guimont

## Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Message: "What Do You Know?"

Rev. Dr. Brian Blount

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## Song of Response

Here in This Place  
Glory to God #401, v 1-4

## Affirmation of Faith

excerpt, written in 2011 by McCormic Seminary Students

Leader: "We trust in Jesus Christ, both human and God.  
As God's Son, Jesus Christ came to this world  
to present another way of living – one of forgiveness and love.

**People: Jesus was a subversive citizen and gifted teacher,  
a radical movement founder, and a model of God's dream for all.**

Leader: Jesus healed the sick, ate with outcasts and favored the poor.  
He worked to reorder power and restore just relationships  
and was put to death by the hands of an unjust system.

**People: Jesus took our helplessness and hopelessness to the cross.**

Leader: Continuing to rebel,  
we remain desperate for Christ's saving grace and reconciliation.

**People: Because of Christ's rising from the dead,  
we are reconciled with God and enabled to reconcile with one another."  
Amen.**

## Litany Prayers of the People

*A time for silent prayers will be offered during the Litany Prayers of the People.*

Leader: God, like the Israelites in the wilderness,  
we too have known your love, and experienced your care and provision.  
You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—  
to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.  
And so we bring the needs of our world before you now. In your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for the many who do not have enough:  
enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;  
enough employment, or money to pay their bills;  
enough medicine or medical care. In your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: We also pray for those who have more than enough,  
but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;  
who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities to dull their pain or loneliness.  
In your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: And now, God of healing and hope hear us  
as we offer our individual prayers  
from wherever we are gathered to worship this day,  
for ourselves, for our neighbors, friends and loved ones:

### *Silent Prayer*

Thank you, Loving God, for hearing all these our prayers.  
God, your grace reaches out to all of us.  
You call us to live as citizens of heaven,  
working together with one heart and mind.  
Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy of the Good News we have received,  
offering our lives in service of your kingdom,  
where the last are first, and the first are last, and there is grace enough for all.  
We pray in Jesus' name, and who taught disciples when we pray to say:

### **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Offering**

#### **Invitation**

Leader: The earth and all it contains belong to God, the world and those who live in it.  
With gladness let us now offer from our life and labor our gifts to God.  
We continue to welcome your financial gifts to Trinity Presbyterian Church,  
and the ways to share are being shown in the live stream.

#### **Doxology**

**O Lord, Our Lord**  
*Glory to God #613, v. 1*

#### **Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**God of abundance, you fill us with good things; you satisfy our thirst; you meet our every need. From your Rock, our blessings flow. Accept what we give in return: our hearts, our hands, our gifts, our love. Use them to answer the cries of a world in need. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

**Song of Service**

**Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom**  
*Glory to God #174, v 1-3*

**Commission and Blessing**

**Postlude**

**“At the Name of Jesus”**  
*by Christopher Walker*

### Participants in Today's Worship

**Pastor** – Marilyn Gamm

**Guest Preacher** – Rev. Dr. Brian Blount

**Director of Music & Pianist/Organist** – Christian Hendricks

**Co-Liturgist** – Corie and John Merker

**Children & Youth Minister** – Hannah Peters

**Communications Coordinator** – Katie Gibbons

**Technical Support** – Dylan Voss and John Roman

**Soloist** – Janelle Pierce

### **The Trinity Choir:**

*Soprano – Aleta Klein, Cricket Gordon, Jenn Clodi, Madeline Black (Section Leader)*

*Alto – Connie Torretta, Margy Brown, Nancy Wagoner, Rachel Presti, Janelle Pierce (Section Leader)*

*Tenor – Brian Schroer, Pat Courtney, Evan Babel (Section Leader)*

*Bass – George Van Hare, Nigel Holloway, John Galczynski, Aleksandar Dragojevic (Section Leader)*

Contact Trinity's staff and leadership by emailing [admin@trinityucity.org](mailto:admin@trinityucity.org) or contacting the church office.

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**NEWS AND NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

*We open our doors to all persons to join in worship, fellowship, educational programs, and service.*

*We welcome into membership all who profess faith in Jesus Christ without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, worldly conditions, sexual orientation, disability, or any other human condition.*

*We elect and ordain persons who are called by God and committed to serving the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**About This Sunday's Preacher:**

The Reverend Doctor Brian Blount has been President and Professor of New Testament of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC since 2007. Prior to accepting the call to serve Union, Dr. Blount had been Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary for 15 years.

Dr. Blount graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1978, where he was the first African American to receive membership in the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

He then received his Master of Divinity from Princeton Seminary in 1981. After graduating from Princeton, he pastored the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, VA from 1982-1988. Dr. Blount received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Emory University in 1992.

Dr. Blount's primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation and in the area of cultural studies and hermeneutics. He is the author of six books, and has edited or co-edited several publications.

He and his wife Sharon have two children, Joshua and Kaylin.

**October 25 Sunday Symposium**

Our October Sunday Symposium will be on the 25th at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. In addition to a short fellowship time, we will launch the second leg of our transitional adventure: "Seeking God's New Thing: Where Are We Now?" Watch the bulletins and newsletters for more information in October.

**Tonight our Adult Education series on The Universal Christ continues!** Is Christ just the second part of Jesus' name? Bringing together thinking about Jesus the historical person with Christ as savior, "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr will be the basis for the next adult education study, led by Trinity members Diane O'Brien and Jim Person. The six-week series will begin Sunday, September 20, from 7 to 8 p.m.

**Genny Richmond Memorials Information**

As you all know our sweet Genny Richmond is now resting in the arms of our Lord. In her memory a plaque will be placed on HER pew with both Genny and Leonard's names.

Her family has suggested memorials be given to the Scholin-Weems Scholarship, or alternatively either to the Food Pantry or the restoration of the organ.

We have wished a fond farewell to our oldest, hard working Elder and Deacon, member of every committee that existed within Trinity, gourmet cook for 100's in the dining room, and a measure by which our youth have judged their growth.

We love you, miss you, and pray for you.

**Safe Homes for the Elderly and Disabled (SHED)**

"Safe Homes for the Elderly and Disabled (SHED) is organizing a month of service in October 2020 in University City in which volunteers will help seniors and disabled residents with home maintenance and repairs.

In view of the pandemic, Trinity is not organizing volunteers to join this effort in 2020, but it heartily supports SHED's efforts to contribute to the health of our neighborhoods.

If you would like to volunteer, though, please email [info@shedstl.org](mailto:info@shedstl.org) or call 314-782-7433. If you would like to contribute financially, kindly send a check payable to SHED, Inc. to PO Box 300414, University City, MO 63130.

**We are always seeking a variety of musical guests for our services, especially from our own congregation.** If you would like to participate, or know of someone who would, please reach out to Director of Music Christian Hendricks. These musical gifts can be shared in person or recorded (video or audio only), and we welcome all varieties of styles and levels of ability.

**Trinity is "broadcasting" our Sunday morning 10 a.m. worship service via our Facebook page or you can watch the recording on YouTube later on Sundays.** Those who participate in this way on home computers or mobile devices can even type messages to one another during the live service, such as doing a virtual passing of the peace. Also, Facebook has captions! While watching the service, find the gear icon at the bottom of the video and click on it. When you do, an option pops up to turn on closed captioning!

Kids and parents probably already know about this, but if you are not a parent of a young person and have **wondered what goes on in "Children's Church," now you can experience it!** Hannah Peters has taped a YouTube video, and updated links will be posted regularly on the "Sundays at Trinity" section of our website homepage.

**As we live in this challenging time, Trinity continues to be available to all those who need us.**

Members desiring pastoral care are encouraged to call the church office at 314-725-3840 or to reach out to Deacons Margy Brown, 314-452-7241, or Cathy Smith, 314-725-0586. Your need will be shared confidentially with our Transitional Pastor the Reverend Marilyn Gamm. You also can email her directly at [Marilyn.Gamm@TrinityUCity.org](mailto:Marilyn.Gamm@TrinityUCity.org)

**Supporting the church through your financial gifts continues to be encouraged!** Please mail your contributions to Trinity Presbyterian Church, Att'n: Linde, 6800 Washington Ave., University City, MO 63130, or check out the online giving instructions below.

1) Text the code TPCDONATE \$[your gift] to 73256. You'll receive a text back with a link that lets you complete your online donation.

2) Log in to your Realm account and click on the "Giving" tab.

#### **Session**

Gordon Brown, Dayna Early, Nigel Holloway, Kris Kerr, Mary Klingensmith, Mike Krivonak, Mary McKown, Brian Muegge (Clerk), Rachel Presti, John Roman, Jan Schulte-Glad, George Van Hare

#### **Deacons**

Margy Brown, Bill Cahoon, Kathie Cahoon, Anna Gardner-Andrews, Jennifer Higginbotham, Corie Merker, Jim Person, Art Platt, Diana Regan, Joanne Roman, Cathy Smith, Spirit Sorensen