



November 21, 2021

Trinity Presbyterian Church
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MATTHEW 25

CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Concerto in A minor, Mvmt. II
by Antonio Vivaldi

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.

Introit

Jesus, Remember Me
Glory to God #227, v. 1

Call to Worship

based on Matthew 5:3-12

Leader: Jesus says:
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Realm of Heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**People: And blessed is the church
that serves with the love of God to eradicate systemic poverty.**

Leader: Jesus says:
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

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

**People: And blessed is the church
that trusts in the grace of Christ to build congregational vitality.**

Leader: Jesus says:

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

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the Realm of Heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

**People: And blessed is the church
that seeks by the power of the Spirit to dismantle structural racism.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Holy, Triune God,

People: and blessed is your Holy Realm forever.

Gathering Song

Jesus, Be with Us
Matthew 25 hymn, v. 1-3

Invitation to Confession

based on Matthew 3:3

Leader: A voice is crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Trusting in God's grace, noting to ourselves the subject of each section,
let us together confess our sin:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life.

**You call us to share all that we have
and work together for the common good,
but we hoard up treasures for ourselves
and deny others their daily bread.**

Systemic Poverty

**You call us to set the captives free
and seek justice for the oppressed,
but we live in fear of our neighbors
and hide ourselves from our own kin.**

Structural Racism

**You call us to walk in newness of life
and to be witnesses to the resurrection,
but we dwell in the valley of dry bones
and keep silent about your saving love.**

Congregational Vitality

**Forgive us, God of Grace. Set us free from sin, death and fear so that we may serve you with
gladness; through Jesus Christ our Sovereign and Savior. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Hear the Good News:
God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God. 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

The Cry of the Poor
Glory to God #35, v. 1

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Speak to us, O God, with the voice of your Holy Spirit, that we may know the way of Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Anthem

Prelude in D-flat major, Op. 28, No. 15 "Raindrop"
by Frédéric Chopin

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 25, 31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

“An Apocalyptic Moment”

Rev. Philip Blackwell

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response

Heaven Shall Not Wait
Glory to God #773, v. 1-4

Minute for Mission

“Being a Matthew 25 Church”

Nigel Holloway

Litany Prayers of the People

based on Matthew 7:7

A time for silent prayers will be offered between each section.

Leader: Jesus says:

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Trusting in the Christ’s grace, noting to ourselves the subject of each section,
let us offer our prayers for the church and the world, neighbors and loved ones,
saying, God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask your provision for all people. **Systemic Poverty**
Teach us compassion and generosity.
Put an end to economic exploitation.
Fill this world with your abundant life.
God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Silent Prayer

Leader: We search for your beloved community.
Break down systems of oppression.
Dismantle patterns of privilege.
Establish justice and equality for all.
God, in your mercy,

Structural Racism

People: hear our prayer.
Silent Prayer

Leader: We knock at the door of your house.
Gather us in as disciples of your way.
Nourish us in faith and faithfulness.
Send us out to share good news.
God, in your mercy,

Congregational Vitality

People: hear our prayer.
Silent 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.

Living God, we ask, we search, we knock –
answer our prayers with the power of your Spirit,
who transforms our lives to do your will.

United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ
we offer these prayers to you as we pray in Jesus' name,
and who taught his 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

Doxology

God, We Honor You
Glory to God #709, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

We give you thanks and praise, Majestic and Loving God: You have created us in your own image. You have claimed us as your beloved people. You have called us to be a blessing for others. Use the gifts of your good creation and the works of our hands to lift up the oppressed, break down dividing

walls, and build up your church; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least
Glory to God #852, v. 1-4

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

Available
by Elevation Worship

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Marilyn Gamm, Liz Nelson

Soloists – Janelle Pierce, Katie Klein

Special Music – Izzy Williams, Kay Nelson, Rachel Presti

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Ushers – Cathy Smith, DeAnne & Gordon Brown

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

Contact Trinity's staff and leadership by emailing admin@trinityucity.org or contacting the church office.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2021

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.*

About Our Guest Preacher

The Rev. Phil Blackwell served United Methodist ministries across northern Illinois for 45 years before retiring in 2014. During that time he led congregations in a rural area, an industrial city, a northern suburb, and in the center of Chicago. He also was a campus minister and a member of the Northern Illinois Conference staff. His wife, Sally, and he moved to the St. Louis area last year to be near their two children and four grandchildren.

Advent-Christmas Worship Series Begins November 28

Hanging of the Greens after Worship November 21

The Worship Committee is excited to share that our theme for the four Sundays of Advent beginning November 28, along with framing the traditional Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, and for the Sunday after Christmas is “The Inn: Housing the Holy.”

As we enter the Advent season, we will be invited to consider ways our church can become a house where the Holy will be born anew – offering respite, sustenance, and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life.

This series is an invitation to spend this Advent and Christmas seeing our church, community, and world situations through the light of the Star of Bethlehem that shone on an unlikely shelter for the holy – a stable.

Each week, in the midst of our ongoing transitional and pandemic uncertainties, we will be reminded that the Light of Christ continues shining on us, inviting us to become a beacon of hope to others.

In preparation for our Advent and Christmas services we will be “hanging the greens” following worship on Sunday, November 21.

In addition to our traditional seasonal decorations, we are inviting our church family to bring in any lanterns like you might find in an old barn to add to our “housing the holy” theme ambiance.

We will also have the return of the choir on November 28 for the First Sunday in Advent, and the handbells on December 12 for the Third Sunday of Advent, performing a mix of old favorites and new delights.

Kitchen Cabinet Annual Christmas Gathering

All women in the church are invited to our annual Christmas party on December 4, 11:30-1:30 in the church dining room. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. A white elephant gift exchange is also planned. A white elephant is something you no longer use but you know someone else would love!!!

We missed being together last year and look forward to seeing everyone for this fun party. Please wear a mask and vaccinations are certainly encouraged for all attendees.

Questions please call Sandy Norkaitis, 314-863-7699.

Called Congregation Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, December 12, 2021

11:30 a.m.

The Session has called a Congregation meeting via Zoom Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of electing members to the Session and to the Board of Deacons, to elect two members of the congregation to the 2022 Nominating Committee, and to elect three members to the Endowment and Planned Giving Committee.

The Holiday Season is upon us!

Christmas Eve 5:00 Family Service

Third grade children through high school youth are invited to participate as a reader or in the prelude .

Please let Miss Hannah know by December 10 if you are interested. If you are participating in the prelude, I will need to know the Christmas carol and instrument you are playing.

Happy Holidays to All!!

Advent Mission Opportunity

This holiday season, Trinity staff have chosen to support our ever growing Winger Food Pantry. Throughout Advent (November 28 - December 19) we ask Trinity members to bring any of the following donations to the room off of the Narthex:

Personal care items, for example:

soap

deodorant

toilet paper

toothpaste

toothbrushes

laundry detergent (smaller containers)

Merry Christmas and thank you!

The Food Pantry uses the local Schnucks store to purchase canned goods and other non-perishables for the pantry. We are taking part in the Schnucks reward program and receive award credits to use as credit against our food pantry purchases. If you shop at Schnucks, you too can add to this by using Trinity's phone number 725-3840 when checking out. The credit will go against future food pantry purchases. The small amounts add up!

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!

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 Corie Merker, 314-434-8286, 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

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 Onrealm account (onrealm.org) and click on the "Giving" tab.

Session

Gordon Brown, Diana Gray, Kevin Harkins, Nigel Holloway, Mary Klingensmith, Sarah New Mayer, Mary McKown, Brian Muegge (Clerk), Bob Parks, Rachel Presti, Jan Schulte-Glad

Deacons

DeAnne Brown, Bill Cahoon, Stacey Carman, Anna Gardner-Andrews, Corie Merker, John Merker, Jim Person, Art Platt, Diana Regan, Joanne Roman, Cathy Smith, Spirit Sorensen