



Trinity Presbyterian Church
6800 Washington Avenue
314.725.3840
University City, Missouri 63130
www.trinityucity.org

facebook.com/trinityucity
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SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Capriccio in F sharp minor from **Eight Piano Pieces, Op. 76**
by Johannes Brahms

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: Weeds and seeds, growing together.

People: Each will influence the other.

Leader: What will we learn from the weeds?

People: Trials and tribulations, choices that have not always worked out.

Weeds can teach us about perseverance –

consider the tough dandelion plant

pushing its way up through the pavement –

for some it's just a weed, but for others there are lessons to be learned.

Leader: What will be gained from seeds?

People: Inside each one of us is a special person,

waiting to be nurtured to wholeness.

Each seed is unique; each has its own gifts to offer.

Leader: In God's garden, the Divine Gardener's love extends to both –
asking both to consider what each has to offer to a hurting world.

People: Divine Gardener, help us to be good seeds,

bearing fruits of kindness, justice and compassion.

Keep us mindful of those for whom life has been difficult

and yet they persist in trying to make each day better.

Gathering Song

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Glory to God #65, v. 1-3

Invitation to Confession

Leader: When we fail to live as God's people,
we are like flowers which give way to weeds.
But our Divine Gardener seeks us out, not to condemn us,
but to comfort, to forgive, and to bring us home.
In penitence and faith let us pray together:

Litany Prayer of Confession

Leader: Divine Gardener, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field
and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun.
We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain.
We are blessed by the knowledge
that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.
When we deprive others of that same opportunity,

People: forgive us.

Leader: When we want to uproot those whom we believe
do not belong in our part of the field,

People: forgive us.

Leader: When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,

People: forgive us.

Leader: When we are reluctant to acknowledge
that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,

People: forgive us.

Leader: When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives
to see what is growing there,

People: forgive us.

Leader: O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

People: You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

Leader: You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

People: So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected,

Leader: the lonely and the outcast,

People: and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world.

Leader: This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: The Divine Gardener's seeds of love have already been sown in your midst.
See the love of God poured out for you.
You are God's beloved ones. Come, live in the light of God.
Friends, believe the Good News:

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

Passing of 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.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Divine Gardener and God of surprises, we are gathered in worship from the weariness of the week, from the “harvest” of various triumphs, from the “weeds” of fears and doubts. As your Word is read and proclaimed, open our hearts to receive your surprising message of hope for all people. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 139

by Michael Guimont

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Message: “Getting to a Good Place”

Rev. Brian Ellison

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Glory to God #367, v 1-4

Minute for Mission – Organ Update

Christian Hendricks

Prayers of the People

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

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

“Dona Nobis Pacem” from Promises of God

by James Shoemaker

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Glory to God #607, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Divine Gardener, we present these tokens of the many blessings you have sown into our lives. Make us people who are unafraid to proclaim your healing mercies. Sow the gifts we offer to bring hope and comfort to all those in need. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

Seed, Scattered and Sown
Glory to God #531 v. 1-3

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

“La Joyeuse”
by Jean-Philippe Rameau

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Guest Preacher – Rev. Brian Ellison

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – George Phillips

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Featured 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 or contacting the church office.

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWS AND NOTES FOR JULY 19TH, 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

Out of an abundance of caution, after having been sick one day this past week, Pastor Marilyn is not coming in to do the live stream this morning. Our virtual Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Brian Ellison, Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.

Confident in God's hopeful future and grateful for the ever-widening welcome of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is a national organization of congregations and individuals who seek an equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society. Learn more at www.covnetpres.org.

The Rev. Brian Ellison has served as Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians since 2012, preaching, teaching and providing overall strategic leadership in implementing the organization's mission. Previously, Brian served as pastor of Parkville Presbyterian Church (near Kansas City, Missouri) for 13 years. He currently serves the General Assembly as a member of its Permanent Judicial Commission. He is also Stated Clerk of the Synod of Mid-America and of Heartland Presbytery. A graduate of Harvard University and Princeton Theological Seminary, Brian also is host/contributor at NPR affiliate KCUR-FM. He and his partner, Troy Lillebo, live in Kansas City. You can reach him at brian@covnetpres.org

Pastor Marilyn will be on vacation July 20-27. Our virtual guest preacher Sunday, July 26 will be Rev. Landon Whitsitt.

About Next Sunday's Preacher:

The Reverend Landon Whitsitt has been the Executive for the Synod of Mid-America since 2011. From 2011 to 2019 he also served as the Synod Stated Clerk. The Synod's Theoacademy educational and training videos were his inspiration and he is their primary producer.

Landon was elected and served as the Vice Moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) from June 2010 to June 2012. He currently is co-moderator of the General Assembly Family Leave Task Force.

Landon has previously served as the Program Director for The Center for Interfaith Relations in Louisville, KY and as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Liberty, MO.

He is a graduate of Sterling College with a major in theatre and of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Landon and his wife, Jerilyn, live in Kansas City and have four active sons.

Continuing at 7 p.m. July 19, Trinity Director of Music Christian Hendricks will host from his home computer and piano a six-week Sunday evening adult education discussion “Music and History in the 20th Century.”

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.

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

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