



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

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EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Improvisation on Handel's "If God be for us" from *Messiah*
by Christian Hendricks

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: Come and worship God with your whole heart.

People: We gather from our many places as mustard seeds of faith.

Leader: Come and worship God with your whole being.

People: We gather from our many places as leaven for the world.

Leader: Come and worship God with your whole mind.

**People: We gather from our many places as treasures and pearls of great price,
enriching the world with our witness.**

Leader: Come and worship God with your whole lives.

Gathering Song

O God, in a Mysterious Way
Glory to God #30, v. 1-4

Invitation to Confession

Leader: When we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
But when we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just, forgives us our sin.
Let us join together in confessing our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Ever-creating God, we like BIG things. We have focused on big cars, big houses, big bank accounts, big, big, big! And you must be disappointed in us when we forget that from even the smallest thing something mighty can happen. Today the scriptures remind us of the smallness of the

mustard seed and the tiny grain of yeast. Each of these things grew into something that offered shelter, peace, and hope, which became the treasures of compassion. Take away our need for the BIG possessions. Open our hearts to receive your Word of love and healing, and let our spirits be ready to grow for you. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your faithful presence. For all things will work for the good for those who love you, our Emmanuel ever with us, and are called according to God's purpose. Thanks be to you, O God, though Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: God is working mighty things in your life.
You have been given the spirit of hope and courage.
God is with you. Place your trust in God's absolute care.
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.

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 Realm is like treasure hidden in a field, like a pearl of great value, like a tree with many branches that emerges from a tiny seed, as your Word is read and proclaimed, focus our attention on your will for us, for our community, for our world, that we might experience your Reign among us, yearn for its fulfillment, and give our best efforts toward full realization of the community of faith on earth as in heaven. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 105

by Christian Hendricks

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (read by Rev Whitsitt)

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Message: "The Kingdom of God is like.."

Rev. Landon Whitsitt

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Response

What Is the World Like

Glory to God #771, v 1-5

Affirmation of Faith

adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith

Leader: In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

**People: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

Leader: The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,

feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

People: **In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

People: **With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**

Litany Prayers of the People

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

Leader: O God, whose very nature is love,
we give thanks that your love has made ours possible,
and we pray that our love may, like leaven in bread, make yours more pervasive.
We rejoice that your love knows no boundaries and makes no exceptions.

People: **Make us, we pray, more inclusive and accepting in our love.**

Leader: We rejoice that your love is both unfailing and tailored to our needs.

People: **Enable us, we pray, to be both constant and imaginative in our love.**

Leader: We rejoice that your love is given to all alike but not to all the same.

People: **Teach us, we pray, both to engender security in all around us
and to express sensitivity to individual differences in our love.**

Leader: We rejoice that your love is extended
without imposing conditions or driving bargains.

People: **Inspire us, we pray, to desist from attaching strings
and to transcend demanding rights in our love.**

Leader: We recognize that your love makes demands and takes sides.

People: **Save us, we pray, from being spineless or sentimental in our love.**

Leader: We recognize that your love does not shield us
from the truth that we need to know
or shield itself from the vulnerability that caring brings.

People: **Dispose us, we pray, both to risk the offense of speaking the truth in love
and to avoid the honesty that hurts to no good end.**

Leader: We recognize that your love always seeks justice but goes beyond it.

People: **Deliver us, we pray, from settling for less than justice
or from doing no more than justice in our love.**

Leader: We rejoice that your love affirms the value of each of us
and goes to the lengths of suffering with and for all of us.

People: **Empower us, we pray, to love ourselves confidently
and to sacrifice for others willingly in our love.**

Leader: We rejoice that your love promotes our growth and refuses to "play God."

People: **Embolden us, we pray, to empower and not to imprison with our love.**

Leader: We rejoice that your love forgives without limit and without manipulation.

People: **Turn us, we pray, from keeping score**

either of others' wrongs or our kindnesses.

Leader: We rejoice that your love has led us to think of you in a parental way.

People: Lead us, we pray, to love our parents and children in a godly way.

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.
Through Jesus Christ Jesus, who has revealed your love most fully,
and the Spirit, who pours it into our hearts,
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

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

The gift of your Realm is precious to us, O God. It is worth our greatest efforts and our caring sacrifice. As we search for the best in life, we also want to share our faith discoveries with friends and neighbors. We do that personally and through our giving. May our outreach proclaim to all that nothing can separate us from your love. We give you thanks that you have entrusted to us all that we are privileged to share. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

God of the Fertile Fields
Glory to God #714, v. 1-4

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

Piano Sonata No. 18, Mvmt. III
by Ludwig van Beethoven

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – John Merker

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Featured Soloist – Janelle Pierce

Handbells – Kevin Harkins

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 26TH, 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

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

About This 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 26, 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.”

Last week we received the excellent news that **Trinity’s Winger Food Pantry will be receiving a \$1,200 grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health and the University of Missouri Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security.** The grant is the result of Cathy Smith participating in a multi-week online series of grant-writing workshops and successful completion of bi-weekly “homework” assignments including filling out an actual grant application.

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