



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

facebook.com/trinityucity
trinityucity.org/sundays

ST. LOUIS PRIDEFEST SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

“O du, mein holder Abendstern” from *Tannhäuser*
by Richard Wagner

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, you that are struggling, come seek healing!

People: We have entered the Realm of God.

Leader: Come, you that are oppressed, come and find freedom!

People: We are participating in the Realm of God.

Leader: Come, you that are outcast, come and find welcome!

People: We are building the Realm of God.

Leader: Come, you that are full of sin, come and seek forgiveness!

**People: We are forgiven; we are restored;
we are all brothers and sisters and siblings in the Realm of God!**

Leader: Come, let us all worship our God.

Gathering Song

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me
Glory to God #703, v. 1-3

Invitation to Confession

Leader: We spend so much time accusing ourselves, judging ourselves, punishing ourselves for what we have done, or not done, for what we have felt, or not felt to be true for us and our lives. But God would draw us closer to the Heart of forgiveness, that we might be filled with healing and grace. Please join with me in our Litany Prayer of Confession:

Litany Prayer of Confession

Written by Revs. Denise Anderson & Shanea Leonard for MLP

Leader: Holy One, whose Spirit is poured out upon all flesh,
whose children you empower to prophesy,
whose youth see visions and whose elders dream dreams,
we cry out to you with a loud “Hosanna!”
Where else shall we go, O Savior? You alone have the words of eternal life.

**People: You came that we might have life more abundantly,
but that abundance eludes too many of us, O God.
To have any hope of realizing your abundance
we must begin by telling these hard truths about ourselves:**

Leader: Our news cycles are filled with despair.
Our hearts ache as we wade through a global pandemic,
reaching grim milestone after grim milestone.
But even as we navigate a new threat, old ones still linger.
Communities of color bear the uneven weight of a new disease,
yet we see that racialized violence and the systemic injustice undergirding it
have by no means given way to the demands of a pandemic.

**People: We speak some of the most recent names of those brutalized
in the name of empire and murdered by police: Tony McDade,
Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and David McAtee.
We add them to the litany already in our macabre collection:
Aiyana and Emmett, Eric and Sandra, Jordan and Rekia, Trayvon,
Atatiana and Tamir, and the myriad others in far too long a list.**

Leader: We also call the names of our trans and nonbinary siblings,
some of who are white but so many who are People of Color,
particularly black trans folk: Dustin Parker, Alexa Negron Luciano,
Yampi Mendez Arocho, Monica Diamond, Lexi, Johanna Metzger,
Serena Angelique Velazquezz, Layla Pelaez, Penélope Díaz Ramírez,
Nina Pop, Helle Jae O’Regan and Tony McDade, and Iyanna Dior.

**People: This great cloud has witnessed persistent injustice
and our perseverance in the face of it.
Yet, how can they rest when so many keep joining their ranks?
Yet, how can they rest when so many keep joining their ranks?**

Leader: We are slow to confront our complicity and investment
in the evils of white supremacy and dominance.
We live in a world in which Indigenous, Black, Brown and Queer
brothers, sisters, and siblings are expected and compelled
to offer forgiveness at a discount.

**People: When the cheeks are turned, they are met with another hand to the face —
or knee to the throat.
Forgiveness is too infrequently met with repentance.
This, O God, we name as sin. It is our sin.
Many of us lament and strive against that sin.
Help and empower us to continue that work with diligence and faith.**

Leader: Too many of us still waver and are unconvinced that there is a problem.
Remove our hearts of stone and replace them
with hearts of flesh that are softened toward our siblings.
Help us to reckon not only with our personal failings,
but also with our institutional history
and the ways the church has helped to create and uphold systems of inequity.

**People: By your Spirit, help us to corporately live into our creeds and confessions
and provide sanctuary for all God’s children.**

When we say that “God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged” and that “the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination,” help us to truly mean it.

Leader: We humble ourselves and cry out to you
in the hope that you will hear us and heal us.
We lift up all of the communities where racialized violence has occurred
and unrest has been stirred.
Holy God, we recall the words of our ancestor Dr. King,
who reminded us that “a riot is the language of the unheard.”
Open our hearts, minds, and understanding to your movement in the margins,
so that when your people speak, they are indeed heard,
and when they tell the truth about your deeds of power, they are heard.
In this way, let the fires of uprising give way to the fires of your Spirit,
where your people hear the Good News of your kin-dom,
hear it with joy, and make haste to participate in it.
We pray in the name of the One who cleared the injustice of the moneychangers
from the Temple, Jesus as the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Written by Rev. Shawna Bowman for MLP

Leader: Hear this Good and abiding news,
God does not leave us where God finds us.
This is the promise made to us by the God
who created us in God's own image:

**People: The space between God's abundance
and these hard truths is where grace meets us.
And it is this grace that compels us to answer the call
to go where the Spirit leads.**

Leader: Let us release our attachment to our current world order
and walk bravely into the world you've intended for us,
even and especially when it costs us something.
We are found here in this place, we are forgiven, we are beloved.
Thanks be to God.

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

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Glory to God #591, refrain

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Nothing changes until we listen. Until we listen to each other, until we listen to the parts of ourselves we are afraid to listen to, until we listen especially when we don't understand, when we feel defensive, when we want to turn away, because in those moments, the Spirit has something to say to us.
Amen.

First Scripture Reading**1 Kings 3:5-12**

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Responsorial Psalm**O God, Show Mercy to Us**
*Glory to God #341, v. 1-2***Second Scripture Reading****Romans 8:26-39**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: "The Easiest Lesson We Struggle to Learn"

Rev. Jess Cook**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD****Song of Response****For Everyone Born**
Glory to God #769, v 1-5

**“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.
Jesus was a subversive citizen and gifted teacher,
a radical movement founder,
and a model of God’s dream for all.
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.
Jesus took our helplessness and hopelessness to the cross.
Continuing to rebel,
we remain desperate for Christ’s saving grace and reconciliation.
Because of Christ’s rising from the dead,
we are reconciled with God
and enabled to reconcile with one another.”
Amen.**

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

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Glory to God #609, 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 I life, we also want to share our faith discoveries with friends and neighbors. We do that personally and with 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. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

I Close My Eyes to See
by Christian Hendricks, after Jean Sibelius

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

Chaconne: Theme and Six Variations
by G.F. Händel

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Guest Preacher - Rev Jess Cook

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – George Van Hare

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Soloist – Aleksandar Dragojevic

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 AUGUST 16TH, 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

Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and restrictions on public gatherings at the time St. Louis Pride postponed PrideFest 2020 from June to mid-August. Then due to the ongoing restrictions on large crowds St. Louis Pride made the decision to hold a virtual PrideFest 2020 celebration on August 15. As a regular participant in the St. Louis PrideFest Parades with plans in place to participate this year along with being a new member of More Light Presbyterians, Trinity is now participating in this PrideFest weekend via a special worship service today.

Therefore, our live stream worship team of Pastor Marilyn, Music Director Christian Hendricks, Soloist Aleksandar Dragojevic, Liturgist George Van Hare, and tech gurus Dylan Voss and John Roman will be joined virtually by guest preacher and More Light Presbyterians Program and Communications Manager, The Rev. Jess Cook (Gender pronouns: they/them/theirs). Rev. Cook is a lifelong Presbyterian and was the first openly non-binary person to be ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Prior to joining MLP, Rev. Cook was the Youth Programs Director at Side by Side, an organization in Richmond, VA serving LGBTQIA+ youth. While at Side by Side, Rev. Cook worked with hundreds of young people through support groups, a leadership program, and various programs in the community. They also created a parent support group and a meals program, and trained a wide variety of faith community leaders and service providers on best practices for working with LGBTQIA+ youth.

To learn more you can check out Jess's TEDxTalk on what faith communities can learn from LGBTQIA+ youth.

Rev. Cook has a Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary, a Master of Fine Arts in Photography from the University of North Texas, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Baylor.

Rev. Cook is a native of East Texas now living with their child and dog in Richmond, VA.

Save the Date: Next Adult Ed September 13

Stay tuned for more information about our next Zoom-based adult education program, scheduled for Sunday, September 13 at 7 p.m. It will be based on the work of a St. Louis-area not-for-profit The Unpaid Labor Project that takes a unique, non-confrontational, unifying and proactive approach to building a new national mindset focused on racial reconciliation.

Trinity to roll out new website! A team has been working on a complete redesign of the Trinity web site at <https://trinityucity.org> and is nearing the time for the go-live for the new site. The project, approved by the session in June, will provide Trinity members and visitors a better understanding and appreciation for Trinity. The team, Cathy Smith, Jan Schulte-Glad, Katie Gibbons, Marilyn Gamm and John Roman, have been working for several months to design and implement a more dynamic and responsive site for both desktop and mobile devices. They have been working with a web design and hosting company, IQComputing. The engagement with IQComputing was funded by a group of anonymous Trinity members. Our thanks to them for their support.

This month's virtual after worship Trinity Sunday Symposium will serve as the re-launch for our transitional adventure on August 30 at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. Pastor Marilyn is calling this first phase of the transitional adventure, for which there will be multiple additional opportunities to participate, "Seeking God's New Thing: From Where Have We Come?" Watch the weekly newsletters and bulletins, and for her verbal worship announcements for more information.

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.

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