



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

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trinityucity.org/worship

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“RISK” SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

“Pietà ti prenda del mio dolor” from *Aida*
by Giuseppe Verdi

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.

Opening to the Creative Spirit Music

Let us Be Drawn In
Words by Marcia McFee; Music by Jason Shelton

Leader: God’s act of creating all that is,
God’s act of entering our lives in the person of Jesus,
God’s everyday act of creating new life –
all these are acts of bringing that which is not into being – all acts of originality.

**People: To create is to assert ourselves in a way that is risky,
that invites stepping into the unknown.**

Leader: Jesus told a story about people
who did different things with the “talents” given to them.

**People: The one who took a risk and utilized those talents
multiplied his gift in the world.**

Leader: What can you do to risk what God has given you
to expand love and grace in the world?

Opening to the Creative Spirit Music Reprise

Opening to the Creative Spirit Prayer

Leader: Risking God, you created something from nothing.
People: **Open us to move into the unknown future with confidence
so that we might live into your vision for this world you continue to create.**
Leader: Draw us into your possibilities.
People: **Give us the courage to act. Amen.**

Gathering Song

The Summons
Gory to God #726, v. 1-5

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)

Risk-Taking God, we confess we are "pack rats." You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy of acclaim. We squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we have been given. We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the Giver. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the Giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world, remind us that the risk-taking message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today. Forgive us when we have treated it as a nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. We pray in the name of your greatest Risk and Gift to us, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Affirming and Connecting

Leader: What holds us back from the courage to make a move?
Author Robert Gruden said, "Creativity is dangerous.
Its pleasure is not the comfort of the safe harbor,
but the thrill of the reaching sail."
People: **Sometimes what holds us back is that we are comfortable,
even if not happy.
We simply have gotten used to the way things are.**
Leader: Hear the Good News!
God has created an ever-expanding universe and you are part of it.
You can expand your world and the world around you
by seeing yourself as God sees you – able to do far more than you can imagine. When you are
uncomfortable, it just means you are growing.
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.

As our greeting and passing of the peace today,
I invite you to type into the comments "Go for it!"

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

An Imaginative Word

Invocation
by Cynthia Winton-Henry

Leader: Here's an idea. Let us make something out of nothing.
No not nothing.
Let us gather up everything that we ever were or are or will be.
Let us be Shapers, Creators, Makers, of Some Thing.
Some World, Some Living.
Let us dare to succeed at it, Dare to fail at it, Dare to fly on the wings of this moment.
Let us improvise our dreams.
Let us leap boldly from the shoulders of our lives,
Our histories, Our loves, Our disasters.

Here's an idea. Let us play ourselves out!
(The real work)
Let us do nothing at all.
It may not matter.
Let us run the risk of naked individuality.
Let us go out wildly Not just as one, But as a union, an ensemble.

Here is an idea. When we make our worlds
Let us commit to them
hold still with them
let them go when it is time.
Let us breathe, Let us sing, Let us laugh, Let us dance,
Let us see what will be when we invoke
God
Creativity
and Power.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:24-30

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Word in Music

O God, Show Mercy to Us
Glory to God #341, v. 1-2

Second Scripture Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: **"Risking God's Grace"**

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Response

Amazing Grace
Glory to God #649, v 1-5

Litany of Belief

Leader: In times when humanity disappoints,
perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors disappoint,
it is an important act to call out, name and claim,
the consequences of our wrongs.
And in times of distress, it is a prophetic act to call out,
name and claim, our belief in the hope for tomorrow.
Hear these statements of belief from members of our own congregation:

Leader: I believe even when so many people in our world are spewing hate

People: **that God is Love.**

Leader: I believe even when in times of bitter partisan and societal division

People: **that we are all God's children.**

Leader: I believe that even when the world becomes crazy and unpredictable

People: **that we continue to be a rock providing a constant presence
and reminder of God's love and care for us.**

Leader: I believe even when a global pandemic
has turned life as we have known it upside down

People: **that hardship brings the best learning and growth.**

Leader: I believe that even when living through difficult and challenging times

People: **that the connections we share make the hardship bearable.**

Leader: I believe that even when the Christian faith is ridiculed as lacking integrity, welcome and
inclusivity

People: **that we are called to be a community that goes into the world,
loves all people, grows active faith in Christ, and transforms people.**

Amen.

Praying for the World We Co-Create and Prayers of the People

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

Leader: As you are comfortable doing so,
close your eyes for just a moment so you can do some visualizing.
Breathe in slowly. Let your breath out slowly. Again: in..... out.....
Try to imagine that your stresses, your anxieties, your deadlines,
are rolling off your head, down your shoulders, down your arms,
and falling away to the floor.
See a blue sky above you. An incredible sunny, blue-sky day.
When you think of “the sky’s the limit,” what do you imagine?
What would you do if you could dream up **anything**
for this city, this world, this community?
Take a moment to write something in the comments.
It can be a word, a phrase, or whole sentences
expressing a desire, a dream, you would want to help create if you could....

Let us pray.

Risk-Taking God - we give you thanks for all your gifts to us –
for daily food – for health – for each breath we take – for freedom to choose –
and for the gifts of your Word, your Power, and your Love.
Our hearts are truly overwhelmed, O God, when we consider all that you are
and how you have entrusted so much to us.
May we be worthy of that trust – may we be a people who are unafraid
to live as fully and as richly as you want us to live

People: God hear our prayer.

Leader: Help us O God, as followers of Jesus, to multiply all that you have given us,
to risk spreading your Word and perhaps see it misunderstood,
to gamble by loving those whom others think worthy only of hate,
to take chances by doing good to those who have not done good to us.
Help us be faith filled and to desire to increase
your glory and your goodness in this world.
Make us ones who share in both word and deed
that which you have given to us.

People: God hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray, O God, for the church gathered creatively today –
that it may encourage all its members
to discover, develop, and use all their gifts, those of nature and those of grace.

People: God hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are poor in body or in spirit....
for those who are oppressed and heavy laden....
for those who are sick or in despair..
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.

Minister, O God, by your Spirit, and by us,
to all those for whom we have prayed –
and help us walk faithfully in the path of our Savior Jesus Christ,
who taught us to pray together as one family, saying:

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 of the Creative Spirit and our Financial Gifts

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.

As you consider your financial offering,
please type into the chat a creative practice in your life
that lifts your spirit or the spirits of those around you.

Doxology

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise
Glory to God #648, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Leader: “This is my creative spirit in the world, this is my offering.
May you see the things you do, no matter how small or mundane,
as the way that you contribute goodness to the world,
creating more life, more joy, more love.”

People: Praise be to God, the Creator of all that is! Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

Come! Live in the Light!
Glory to God #749, v. 1-3

Commission and Blessing

Leader: May you see the unfolding of each day,
as an opportunity to be a Co-Creator with God.

As a Jesus-Follower, may you feel his company leading you
toward creating more kindness, justice and mercy.

May you know the nudge of the Creative Spirit within,
“making belief” in all you are and do.
Amen.

Postlude

An Improvisation

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Guest Preacher – Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgists – Cathy Smith and Katie Howard

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Soloist – Evan Babel

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 JANUARY 24, 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.

Pastor Marilyn is on vacation January 23-29. Our guest preacher today is the Rev. Amy Starr Redwine, Pastor and Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia

Rev. Starr Redwine has a degree in religion and classics from Middlebury College in Vermont and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

She describes herself as passionate about meaningful, thought-provoking, inspiring worship; leading people to encounter God in their daily lives in ways that lead to personal transformation; exploring how God calls us to use our gifts for the transformation of the world; and discerning together how the church can best serve our community and world with passion and joy.

Rev. Starr Redwine is married to Rev. Derek Redwine, with whom she has served churches in Denver, Colorado, Akron, Ohio, and Cleveland, Ohio. They have a daughter, Sarah, and two sons, Quinn and George.

The Worship Committee has chosen as our series theme for the six Sundays between Epiphany and Lent - “Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God.”

According to the worship series resources, “We spend too much time being ‘driven’ rather than ‘drawn in.’ We focus on what we ‘should’ do rather than what we feel excited and compelled to do in our lives, in this world. During this series, we will connect with our inherent creativity and nurture this foundational aspect of being human, giving us renewed energy for passionate work, delightful play, and creative problem solving to make this world a better place for all.”

As such, our weekly worship format will be modified to include a time of “Opening to the Creative Spirit” as we from wherever we are gathering “enter” into the service, a time of confession that includes “Affirming and Connecting,” the offering of an “An Imaginative Word” before the weekly Scripture readings, a time of “Praying for the World We Co-Create” during our prayers of the people, and an invitation for “Offering of the Creative Spirit” as one of our gifts.

Each week as we’re “Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God,” will have a different emphasis:

January 10 – “Dream”

January 17 – “Hover”

January 24 – “Risk”

January 31 – “Listen”

February 7 – “Re-integrate”

February 14 – “Resting”

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 Deacon 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, Diana Gray, Kevin Harkins, Nigel Holloway, Mary Klingensmith, Sarah New Mayer, Mary McKown, Brian Muegge (Clerk), Rachel Presti, Tim Rand, Jan Schulte-Glad, George Van Hare

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 Sorenson