



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“LISTEN” SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Prelude in A major, Op. 28, No. 7
by Frédéric Chopin

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: “Listening” as part of creativity is about perceiving.
We open our senses to see what is emerging.

People: **Perhaps what we start doesn’t end up
looking like what we thought it would.**

Leader: Instead, once the act of creating begins,
we listen to how the Spirit is guiding our next steps
and unfolding possibilities we were previously unaware of.

People: **Without paying attention in this way, we act as if we have all the answers.
And when we are up against something that doesn’t go our way,
we see it as a negative.**

Leader: But what if those moments are simply Co-Creator God
inviting us to see new ways of moving forward in our lives?

Opening to the Creative Spirit Music Reprise

Opening to the Creative Spirit Prayer

Leader: Co-Creating God, you sometimes present us with different plans.

People: Open us to the idea that you might have something in store for us that we have not previously been able to imagine.

Leader: Draw us into your surprises.

People: Give us the courage to get out of our own mold. Amen.

Gathering Song

Open My Eyes, That I May See
Gory to God #451, v. 1-3

Invitation to Confession

Leader: It's in the waters of baptism,
that we first publicly acknowledge the free gift of God's unmerited grace.
It's through the waters of baptism that God forgives us our sins
before we are even consciously aware that we are sinners.
With faith let us confess our sin
before God and one another as we pray together.

Litany Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Leader: Co-Creating God, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.

People: Through your Spirit we stand in the assurance of your acceptance.

Leader: Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understandings of discipleship
and our clouded sense of purpose.

**People: Through your Spirit
we are drawn into the illumination of your empowering love.**

Leader: Forgive us when we are frightened of the future
or pull back from the demand of your calling.
Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past,
to acknowledge your grace in the present moment,
and to trust you for our future.

People: Through your Spirit we offer ourselves in discipleship.
We stand together as your disciples.
We seek renewed and renewing faith.
Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord.
Touch us now with your Spirit.
Amen.

Affirming and Connecting

Leader: What gets us "stuck" in the creative process?
Creativity expert Adriana Diaz said,
"Creativity is a combination of making something happen
and letting something happen..."

**People: Sometimes we get stuck because we are working too hard
to *make* something happen when what we also need to do
is *let* something unfold –
to perceive that which is yearning to come to the surface
if we will just let it.**

Leader: Hear the Good News!
God is the one who sets the boundaries of what is possible
and those boundaries are not fixed,
but defined by ever-new possibilities of growth.
Part of the creative process is to let go
and let God show us what is bubbling to the surface of our lives.

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 “Stay open.”

Song of Praise

Let the Whole Creation Cry
Glory to God #679, v. 1

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

An Imaginative Word

Harold and the Purple Crayon
by Corckett Johnson

One evening, after thinking it over for some time,
Harold decided to go for a walk in the moonlight.
But there wasn't any moon,
and Harold needed a moon for a walk in the moonlight.
And he needed something to walk on.
[Using his crayon], he made a long straight path
so he wouldn't get lost
and set off on his walk taking his big purple crayon with him.
But he didn't seem to be getting anywhere on the long straight path
So he left the path for a short cut across a field.
And the moon went with him.

The Word in Music

“Hear Me, Israel” from *Elijah*
by Felix Mendelssohn

Scripture Reading

Acts of the Apostles 16:6-15

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord

opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: **“Listening for What’s Next”**

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response

Listen, God Is Calling
Glory to God #456, v 1-3

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.

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

Guide My Feet

Glory to God #741, v. 1-3

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

Finale from *The Firebird*

by Igor Stravinsky

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Jayne Howard

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

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

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

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWS AND NOTES FOR JANUARY 31, 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.

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