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**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Prelude**

**“Sola, perduta, abbandonata”** from *Manon Lescaut*  
by *Giacomo Puccini*

**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: God is the Creator of the Heavens and Earth;

**People: God has made everything, and given it to us.**

Leader: Jesus is our Redeemer, our Savior, our Friend;

**People: Jesus has come to show us God’s love,  
and teaches us to love one another.**

Leader: The Holy Spirit moves in us, brings us together, and guides us in life;

**People: The Spirit reminds us that everything comes from God.**

Leader: Let us share in all of the good gifts of God:

**People: Let us worship our God virtually together as one.**

**Gathering Song**

**Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor**  
*Glory to God #342, v. 1-3*

**Invitation to Confession**

Leader: When we remember all the mistakes we have made,  
all the careless words we have spoken,  
all the contempt we have given to those around us,  
we have trouble looking God in the eye.  
But God gazes at us with mercy and love, waiting to forgive us,  
even as we hesitate to speak of the brokenness of our hearts.  
Let us pray together:

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Again we must confess, Master of the Universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make.

Have mercy, Journeying God, have mercy on us. Once again, open our eyes to your Realm in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Savior, through whom we pray. Amen.

### **Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

Leader: This is the good news:  
God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope,  
to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.

People: **The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness,  
but the fullness of grace and hope in our God.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!**

### **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.  
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*

## **WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: Amazing God, who entrusts to us the management of the earth, help us to appreciate and value the talents you have given us, using them for the benefit of all your children, that all of us may grow in faith, hope, and love to the end that all will dwell in your Realm of Light. Amen.

### **First Scripture Reading**

**Judges 4:1-7**

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**"The Cry of the Poor"**  
*by John B. Foley, SJ*

## Second Scripture Reading

**Matthew 25:14-30**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 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.’

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: **“Claiming Our Choices and Power”**

**Rev. Marilyn Gamm**

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

**Song of Response**

**God Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

*Glory to God #716, v 1-3*

**Minute for Mission**

**“Turkey Day Update” Joanne Roman**

**Prayers of the People**

*A time for silent prayers will be offered during the Litany.*

**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**

**I Will Call Upon the Lord**

*Glory to God #621*

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Now, in these moments of gratitude, we would offer you a portion of all which you have given to**

us, Gracious God. We do so, trusting that you will take them, multiplying them in your Realm, so all might be blessed by your love, your peace, and your hope. Amen.

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

**Song of Service**

**We Praise You, O God**  
*Glory to God #612, v 1-3*

**Commission and Blessing**

**Postlude**

**“I Am the Bread of Life”**  
*by Suzanne Toolan*

### Participants in Today's Worship

**Pastor** – Marilyn Gamm

**Director of Music & Pianist/Organist** – Christian Hendricks

**Liturgist** – Bob Wagoner

**Children & Youth Minister** – Hannah Peters

**Communications Coordinator** – Katie Gibbons

**Technical Support** – Dylan Voss and John Roman

**Soloist** – Madeline Black

### **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](mailto:admin@trinityucity.org) or contacting the church office.

## TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 15, 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.*

**Our November Sunday Symposium will be this Sunday, November 15 at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.** Plans are to have some extended fellowship time along with an organ update and a conversation about the 2021 financial stewardship campaign.

**Our guest preacher Sunday, November 22 will be the Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett,** who has served as President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA), the mission arm of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), since June 2018. Dr. Moffett will be using the Matthew 25:31-46 Gospel reading to share about her vision embraced by the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies as an invitation to become a “Matthew 25 Church.”

Prior to her election leading PMA, Diane served as senior pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. While there, she also served on several boards, became a candidate for mayor of the city, and was co-chair of the Greensboro Interfaith Clergy Council and vice president of the Pulpit Forum.

In April 2018, Diane received the Sojourner Truth Award, the highest honor of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, for her commitment to serving others.

Diane's service to the denomination also includes serving as the first woman pastor at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California, and associate pastor of evangelism, discipleship and ministry at Elmwood United Presbyterian Church in East Orange, New Jersey.

She has also served as coordinator of the Korean and African American Pastors Reconciliation Project and executive director at Harbor House Ministries.

Diane holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and social welfare from the University of California at Berkeley, and both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Diane is married to Mondre Moffett, a trumpeter and professor of Black music studies at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. They have three daughters and five grandchildren.

**The Worship Committee needs your suggestions.** We're' sure you've all seen people's lawn signs, stating what they believe. For example, "Black Lives Matter" and "No human is illegal", etc. We'd like to come up with a collection of one-liners that capture what we as a worshipping Christian community believe. These can be anything from "Jesus is Lord" to "No child should go hungry". Please send your suggested one-liners that you believe capture our Trinity values and beliefs to Pastor Marilyn at [marilyn.gamm@trinityucity.org](mailto:marilyn.gamm@trinityucity.org) by November 18, and many will find their way into our Advent services, and perhaps elsewhere as well!

As we continue to remain physically distant to ensure our mutual health and safety, coming together for Christmas Eve in our beautiful sanctuary is not possible this year—at least not in person. However, **we are working on a Christmas gift to you, our congregation, and for everyone you share it with: a Lessons and Carols service, with individual parts filmed and put together for one video.** We will acknowledge the difficulties of these times, but the emphasis, as always when we emerge from Advent, will be on light and overcoming darkness. And we want to have as many of you involved as possible. Just as with a usual Lessons and Carols service, there are nine readings, which we would record individuals and families reciting from their homes, by the fireside, maybe, or by a Christmas tree—something to add and share for the Christmas mood. Hannah Peters is already looking for youths to do three of the readings, and we are looking for an array of readers which reflects Trinity's broad family of congregants.

We are also looking for musicians. While we are mostly keeping with carols, we are expanding the amount of music in relation to past years, to get as many people involved as possible. The music, contrary to the readings, would ideally be filmed at the church in the evening, to reflect the atmosphere of a usual Christmas Eve Vigil service (conditions permitting). You would work with Music Director Christian Hendricks to find a suitable arrangement (even a solitary voice or instrument is welcome). Some parts of the service will be allotted specifically to our contract soloists and to handbells. Hannah is also looking for children to play music for the prelude, as we would normally have for the Family Service.

If you are interested in **either** reading a Lesson or performing a Carol, please contact Christian at [christian.hendricks@trinityucity.org](mailto:christian.hendricks@trinityucity.org). Thank you, and come December 24th, we will present you, and you all will present each other, a most heartfelt gift of music and goodwill.

**Working for justice means keeping the issues in the forefront of people's minds.** Every Wednesday, members of First Presbyterian Church stand at their busy corner of Midland and Delmar, holding signs acknowledging that Black Lives Matter and demanding Justice for those who have been murdered.

They welcome us to join them each week. Currently they meet from 5:30-6:30pm each Wednesday, but will probably switch to 5-6pm once we have the time change. Please contact Liz Nelson for more details (314-359-2478; leithskye@gmail.com), or show up on the front lawn if First Pres with a sign and a desire for justice!

**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 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