

February 13, 2022



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SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Prelude

On Eagle's Wings

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.

* **Introit**

O God, You Are My God
Glory to God #743, v. 1

* **Call to Worship**

Leader: From the comfort of our Western homes and prosperous lives,
People: We come hungry for a better world for all.
Leader: In our society divided by power struggles and prejudice,
People: We affirm the power of your healing love.
Leader: With the honesty of our doubts and insecurities,
**People: We rejoice in your love for each one of us;
seeking your blessing to make us whole.**

* **Gathering Song**

Let Us Build a House
Glory to God #301, v. 1-5

*** 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.

*** Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Compassionate God, we recognize that our world is a broken place, hurt by poverty, famine and disease. We admit that sometimes we make the world a broken place, tolerating prejudice, conflict and self-interest. We confess that our hearts also suffer with anger, resentment and jealousy.

Renew us in your love, O God, and heal us with the comfort of your abundant love. Awaken us to the role we can play in healing your creation. Strengthen us through the power of the Holy Spirit to hear your Word and move forward in faith. Amen.

*** Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

Leader: God knows your mind and knows your heart.
God forgives those who seek forgiveness with sincere hearts and minds.
God offers grace of hope and courage to change our ways and confront injustice.
Blessed are those who trust in God, whose trust is in God.
Believe the Good News:

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
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.
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: God of blessings and woes, bless us this day with lives filled with love, caring, generosity, and deep, abiding hope. We pray that your Realm will dwell among all people, and that we may be instruments of your love and your grace. As your Word is read and proclaimed, open our hearts to the joy of healing a world filled with brokenness and pain. We pray in the name of the One who teaches the ways of light and love. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

* **Anthem**

I Close My Eyes to See
arr. Christian Hendricks

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Blessings and Woes

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

“Being the People God Created Us to Be”

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* Song of Response

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

Glory to God #432, v. 1-4

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 #

We Praise You, O God

Glory to God #612, v. 1

* Prayer of Dedication

(Unison)

Benevolent God, you see those who are hungry, poor, and marginalized, who too often we overlook. You recognize their humanity and their suffering and promise to overthrow the rejection they encounter in our world. Help us be part of that transformation. Accept our gifts to feed the hungry and sustain the poor. Multiply our gifts to erase the margins of our society, embracing us all in your inclusive love. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

* Song of Service

For Everyone Born

Glory to God #769, v. 1-5

Blessing our Transitional Ministry Together:

Clerk of Session Sarah Mayer:

A church family is constantly changing. It is right and important that we recognize these times of passage – of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Pastor Marilyn, whose term as our transitional pastor is coming to an end.

Pastor Marilyn, during this time of transition, you have proclaimed God's Word, announced God's forgiveness to us, and presided at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service in this community.

You have served our congregation faithfully and now you are leaving our midst. As members of this congregation, we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your new endeavors, bringing closure to your ministry here.

Pastor Marilyn:

I thank the members and friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church for the love, the kindness, and the support shown to me during my ministry among you. I ask for your understanding and forgiveness for mistakes I have made and for expectations I have not met. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation:

We receive your thankfulness, and we offer you our forgiveness. We express our gratitude for all accomplishments and for your time among us. Forgive us for our shortcomings – for ways we have sinned against you. Your influence in our lives will not leave us, even though you depart from us as our transitional pastor.

Pastor Marilyn:

I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to our forgiving God and to the Christ we are called to serve.

Clerk of Session Sarah Mayer:

Do you, members and friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church, now release Pastor Marilyn Gamm from her duties as our transitional minister? Do you offer encouragement and support for her ministry as it unfolds in a new place?

Congregation: We do, with God's help.

Clerk of Session Sarah Mayer:

Do you, Pastor Marilyn Gamm, release Trinity Presbyterian Church from turning to you and depending on you? Do you offer your encouragement and support for the continued ministry here?

Pastor Marilyn: I do, with God's help.

Clerk of Session Sarah Mayer:

We will hold you in our prayers as you continue your ministry in another place, and we wish you God's blessing.

Let us pray:

All: God, whose everlasting love for us all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together here in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold close these cherished memories, but now move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Clerk of Session Sarah Mayer:

Go now, Pastor Marilyn, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*** Commission and Blessing**

Postlude

**Finale from *The Firebird*
by Igor Stravinsky**

The Deacons are inviting everyone to a reception after church to celebrate Marilyn's ministry with us, to wish her well with her next assignment, and to say Au revoir. Please join us.

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Soloists – Janelle Pierce, Madeline Black & Evan Babel

Liturgist – Pat Gibbons

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Ushers – Mary Klingensmith, DeAnne & Gordon Brown

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, Bob Wagoner

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

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWS AND NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2022**

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.*

February 2 Session Meeting Highlights

1. A joint recommendation from the Finance and Personnel committees was approved to provide one-time staff bonuses.
2. The establishment of a formal organ repair fund was approved.
3. In-person worship including children's worship was approved to resume on Sunday, February 13, 2022.
4. The Annual Congregational Meeting was approved to be called for Sunday, March 27, 2022 following morning worship, and will include a proposal to revise the Bylaws to reduce the sizes of the Session and Board of Deacons from twelve to nine members each.

Organ Repair Fund

Session has approved the establishment of an organ repair fund. As you know, our great Casavant has sat silent for over two years, the electronics in the console acting as its brain and neural network needing to be replaced. The cost is expected to be around \$43,000, but after pledges and memorial gifts totaling \$21,200 [or updated number from Linde] have been made, we are already halfway there. Please consider adding your support however you can—all is appreciated.

"Engaging the Religious Nones", a two-part adult education offering led by Rev. Dr. Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez. Please mark your calendar for this exciting discussion on Sunday, March 13, and March 20 at 7:00 PM.

Description: The number of religious “nones” in the U.S.—adults who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic, or “nothing in particular” (Pew Research Center, 2018)—has tripled. Closer analysis reveals that many nones associate organized religion with intolerance and injustice while still thirsting after some form of spirituality. As a church theologian and a Minister of the Word and Sacrament active in the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Dr. Ruben Rosario-Rodreuez has concluded that the church's own actions have contributed to the church's current crisis, which is why so many—including many Christians—no longer consider the church an institution worth defending. So instead of focusing on what the church can do to bring Millennials and Gen Z back into the fold (very little), the church ought to listen to what these Nones are saying to take spiritual inventory and get its own house in order.

Children's Worship resumes meeting in person beginning Sunday, February 13.

The month of February will be dedicated to the theme of Love, in honor of Valentine's Day.

Each Sunday, a story of Love from the Bible will be presented. Followed by activities, games and crafts having to do with our theme.

With the scheduled out-of-town move of Joanne and John Roman this spring or early summer, there are several opportunities, large and small, for joining the Food Pantry team!

Bread Company Bread Donation pickup: Once a month on Tuesday evenings. Pick up the donated bread at the Galleria Bread Company at closing time (currently 7pm, previously 9pm) on Tuesday. Drop off at church. Assignment would be second Tuesday of the month but could be exchanged with others.

Coordinator of Food Pantry Team volunteers: Coordinate the assignments and duties of the regular volunteers and additional help. Can be done mostly thru email.

WFP Senior Box Program Coordinator - Manage the CSFP program for distribution of senior boxes. Keep track of distribution of boxes and update records needed for yearly audit.

WFP Wednesday Workers - Join the team on Wednesday afternoon (12:30 - 3) team to help check-in clients and distribute food. Only need to work one Wednesday a month as part of a rotating team.

WFP Coordinator - Be the main contact for the Winger Food Pantry with the team, the church and the outside agencies. Do not have to be available on Wednesdays, and most work can be completed through emails and random checks at church.

If you want to discuss further the possibilities or responsibilities related to this important Trinity ministry, please contact Joanne Roman JoanneCRom@aol.com. You do not need to be a Trinity member to join the team! It is a very rewarding ministry and part of our Matthew 25 commitment.

Memorial Service for Sally Dunn Postponed Due to Omicron

The memorial service for Sally Ann Dunn, a long-time Trinity member before she moved to Atlanta, has been postponed due to the Omicron Covid-19 outbreak. The service had been set for January 22. A new date has been scheduled for March 19.

During her time at Trinity, Sally was a key figure for the Winger Food Pantry, a Sunday School teacher and she specialized in organizing large events for church celebrations. She died in November.

The Food Pantry uses the local Schnucks store to purchase canned goods and other non-perishables for the pantry. We are taking part in the Schnucks reward program and receive award credits to use as credit against our food pantry purchases. If you shop at Schnucks, you too can add to this by using Trinity's phone number 725-3840 when checking out. The credit will go against future food pantry purchases. The small amounts add up!

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!

While 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 Corie Merker, 314-434-8286. 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 Onrealm account (onrealm.org) and click on the "Giving" tab.

Session

Diana Gray, Kevin Harkins, Diane Hemphill, Jayne Howard, Jane Kaiser, Mary Klingensmith, Sarah New Mayer (Clerk), Mary McKown, Bob Parks, Jan Schulte-Glad

Deacons

Anna Gardner-Andrews, DeAnne Brown, Stacey Carman, Cricket Gordon, Jennifer Higginbotham, Corie Merker, John Merker, Jim Person, Art Platt, Joanne Roman, Christy Schindler