



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“REST” SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
arr. Fred Offutt

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: Something grossly overlooked in the creative process
is the place of effortlessness and play.
In the story of creation, God rested. And this was very “good” as well!

**People: Staying too focused on deadlines
and how every moment can be “productive”
robs us of an important feature
of what it means to be humans made in the image of God: rhythm.**

Leader: Pushing through is non-sustainable, and creativity suffers if we constantly labor.

People: Celebration is necessary along the journey.

Leader: God’s creativity is ongoing,
so while the story said God was “finished” and then rested,
really it was simply a pause to reflect, to observe, and to celebrate,
and then God continued God’s creative work among us and with us.

Opening to the Creative Spirit Music Reprise

Opening to the Creative Spirit Prayer

Leader: Active and Restful God, your heart is our heart, your rhythm is our rhythm.

People: Open us to the place of rest and celebration in the rhythm of our lives.

Leader: Draw us into delight.

People: Give us the courage to breathe deeply. Amen.

Gathering Song

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Glory to God #39, 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: Active and Restful God, you call us to recognize creation's dependence on you;
but instead, we work without pausing to reflect or give thanks.

**People: Forgive our ungrateful ways,
and teach us to both receive and provide times of holy rest.**

Leader: Active and Restful God, you are a God of restoration.
Restoring our relationship with you requires time to reconnect,
time to celebrate and play, time to rest.

**People: Forgive us for sending a signal that what is on the to-do list right now
is more important than relationship
and creating a sustainable rhythm for the long-haul of justice work.
Teach us to both receive and provide times of holy rest.**

Leader: May our holy resting reveal the depth of our love
as we praise and adore you, O God,
in Jesus name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Affirming and Connecting

Leader: Why can't we seem to keep up our creativity? Why do we get so burned out?
Researcher and author, Brené Brown says,
"It takes courage to say yes to rest and play in a culture
where exhaustion is seen as a status symbol."

**People: Sometimes hidden or not-so-hidden expectations,
even and especially the ones we put on ourselves,
drown out our own gut feeling that it is time to take a break.**

Leader: Hear the Good News!
God's love does not depend on your productivity.
And your energy for the work of helping to serve the needs of the world
is fed when you dare to give yourself what you need as well.
You are beloved. Rest and celebrate.

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 "You ARE enough, period."

Song of Praise

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

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

An Imaginative Word

Take it In
by Marcia McFee

It is time
time to take it in
take in the beauty
take in the wonder
take in the consequences
take in the meaning

it is time
when work has worn us
before its torn us
before we quit
it is time

take it in
to our hearts
our lives
our longing

take it in and rock it
love it
let it go

all this making, creating, anticipating
it is time
it takes time
so now is the time

to rest

The Word in Music

Variation 30 (Quodlibet) from Goldberg Variations
by J.S. Bach

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: **“Resting and Restoring”**

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest
Glory to God #824, 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.

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 comments 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

There Is Now a New Creation
Glory to God #774, v. 1-5

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

Interlude: Lifting from *Three Pieces for Piano*
by Christian Hendricks

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – John Merker

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 FEBRUARY 14, 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.

Trinity is blessed to have several physicians among our congregation, including Dr. Rachel Presti, who has been leading COVID vaccine research for many months. Rachel is frequently interviewed by local media seeking informed insights, and now we have the opportunity to hear directly from her during our February Adult Education, Sunday, February 14 beginning at 4 pm.

Dr. Presti is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Unit (ID CRU) at Washington University. She will discuss the vaccine rollout and answer our questions.

Please note the special date and time for this important conversation: TODAY, 4 to 5 pm

Trinity Live Stream Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7 pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season in Lent. It is a time when we pause, keep silent, and contemplate the certainty of our own mortality, but also the certainty of the Resurrection to come. You might ask, really? This year, of all years, do we need to be reminded of our mortality, 12 months into a pandemic that has claimed more than 400,000 lives in our country, including friends, colleagues, and family? And my answer is, yes, now more than ever – it is a chance to remember that in that horrifying number are 400,000 individual lives, life stories and losses.

Lent is also the season when we choose to fast in some way, from particular foods, activities, or habits. You might again ask, really? Over this last year we have all given up more than we ever imagined possible. What more can we give up? And I would say that for me, fasting during Lent serves as a way of making room for

something else, perhaps a place to hear God's voice a little more clearly. What are the insights and discoveries from this past year of deprivation, that we otherwise would not have recognized? To say it another way, how has God continued to be present for us through this difficult year?

Our Ash Wednesday service will launch our new Lenten worship series: "Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery." Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a challenging year since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness – body, mind, and spirit – like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten "season of recovery" for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward creating something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken.

The theme for our Ash Wednesday service will be "Shattered." Instead of ashes, in preparation for the Ritual Action in this service, please have with you a candle, a bowl with some sand or soil in it, and a bit of water.

Please join us for this year's special Ash Wednesday service via Trinity's Facebook page or watch later via Trinity's YouTube page.

"Memento, homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris."
George Van Hare, for the Worship Committee

Brokenness Made Beautiful, a Lenten Offering

The ocean tumbles pieces of broken glass, depositing them onto the sand, then pulling them back into the waves to be tumbled once again. It takes a broken shard of glass and smooths off the rough edges. The ocean creates something beautiful with myriad shapes, sizes, and colors. In turn, these lovely pieces of beach glass can be used to create more beautiful things, becoming jewelry or decoration or perhaps a thoughtful grouping in a jar or a bowl that catches the sun.

Lent provides a space where we can each feel both the brokenness and the beauty of our lives. Individually, and collectively as a church and as people in this world, we have experienced tremendous brokenness and sadness. The pandemic has upended our lives and left behind grieving friends and families. The beauty of finding deeper connections, new ways to be in community, and perhaps time to reflect on these changes, is also there. Admittedly, that beauty can be difficult to find at times!

Drawing upon and connecting to our Epiphany Worship series on creativity, the worship committee invites you to participate in our Brokenness Made Beautiful Lenten offering. Small bags, each containing some colorful wire and glass beads, have been put together. We invite you to take the wire and the glass beads and create what feels right to you. Perhaps you bend the wire around the beads. Perhaps you hang some beads on the wire and place it in a window. Perhaps you sculpt the wire separately from the beads, resting the beads around, or next to the sculpture.

How do you feel drawn to create beauty from brokenness?

The wire and glass bead kits will be available at the church for pickup at the handicapped entrance at the following times:

- Monday (15th) between 12pm and 2pm
- Thursday (18th) between 2pm and 4pm

Please pick up as many bags as there are people in your household. If neither of these work for you, please email Sarah Mayer at mayer.sarah.j@gmail.com to arrange for pickup. We would love to see photographs of what you choose to create!

“Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery” Worship Series

The Worship Committee has chosen as our Lenten series theme beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through Good Friday: “Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery.”

Please see the separate article for more information about the specific thoughts and plans for our live stream Ash Wednesday service.

According to the worship series resources:

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a challenging year since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness – body, mind, and spirit – like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward creating something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken.

Each week of our new “Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery” worship series will have a different emphasis:

Ash Wednesday, February 17 – “Shattered”

February 21 – “Treasure”

February 28 – “Safe Keeping”

March 7 – “Stories”

March 14 – “Different Pictures”

March 21 – “Restoration”

Palm Sunday, March 28 – “Holy, Wholly”

Good Friday, April 2 – “Healed and Still Healing”

Annual Congregation Meeting, Sunday, February 28, 2021

The Session has called the Annual Congregation meeting for Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. The meeting will be held within the February Sunday Symposium.

In order to ensure we have a quorum, Trinity members are requested to RSVP their attendance by Wednesday, February 24 to Clerk of Session Brian Muegge at trinityclerkofsession@gmail.com.

In addition to receiving annual committee and staff reports, there will be two action items:

A motion to amend the Trinity By-Laws as follows:

Meetings of Trinity Presbyterian Church should ordinarily be face-to-face.

The congregation may meet by electronic means if all members have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss and vote on business items. The quorum for such a meeting is 10 percent of the Active Member Roll.

Approval of the July 12, 2020 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes and the December 6, 2020 Called Congregation Meeting Minutes.

Pastor Marilyn will also provide an oral update on next steps in Trinity’s transitional adventure.

Friends of Trinity Church, this is a reminder that if you are looking to reach out to someone within our congregation, feel free to contact Katie at the communications@trinityucity.org email account, she can get you phone numbers, emails and addresses. You can also use our online directory Onrealm at onrealm.org. If you do not have login information for this online database, Katie can help you with that, just send her an email and she will set you up!

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!

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 Corie Merker, 314-434-8286, 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 Onrealm account (onrealm.org) 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