



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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ASH WEDNESDAY

“SHATTERED”

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

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.

Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music

“Holy Vessels”

Words by Marcia McFee; Music by Chuck Bell

Leader: Ash Wednesday is a time of naming brokenness.
People: **As we enter the season in Lent,
we commit to enter also into a season of healing and recovery
that requires the naming of what has been shattered as a first step.**
Leader: We take “the yoke” of responsibility as disciples of Jesus
to be the Body of Christ –
a body of those who need healing and offer healing in the world.
People: **The promise of Jesus is that he is with us in our weariness and burdens.**

“Holy Vessels” Reprise

Gathering Song

Jesus, Lover of My Soul
Glory to God #440, v. 1-4

Invitation to Confession

Leader: We will be living with stories of Jesus' healing in the Gospel of Matthew in this Lent season. We will see how Jesus encouraged people to open up about their lives as part of the healing process – no matter how broken. Ash Wednesday developed as a doorway to speaking the truth of our lives, a time to lay the brokenness of life before God. Let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, we have lived a year in Lent. In the midst of it all we have seen love shine through at times but as we look back in this moment, it feels like a year of shattered dreams and shattered peace. We are discouraged. Even though so much feels out of our control, we also see the ways our own faults and failures to love each other fully, to care for the least, to honor your creation, to stand for what is right and good, have contributed to the shattering.

And so we come to you in pieces. Fragments, broken shells of our past selves. As we walk along the shores of Uncertainty and Pain, we ask that you meet us here.

Help us, Healer. Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Silence

“Holy Vessels” Reprise

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Throughout the season in Lent, we will be contemplating the symbol of broken glass – beach glass to be specific. An unknown author has said this about the glass fragments that are collected on various shores:

“Ordinary pieces of tableware or beer or soda bottles are flung into the ocean. Years pass, or decades, and then one day, there it is upon the shore: a small shard from one of those long-ago discarded objects. Shifting currents have rounded its edges; abrasion has polished its surface; exposure to the sun has altered its hue. And so, when we happen upon it, [there] amidst the shells and seaweed, we can't help but laugh with joy at what seems a miracle: this ordinary fragment of silica that time and adversity have transformed into something beautiful.”

People: Time and adversity... making something beautiful out of that which, once seen as ordinary and broken, is now considered a transformed and precious piece.

Leader: This is the journey we undertake.

People: Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy.

No matter what, Jesus is the lover of our souls.

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

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

Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord
Glory to God #635, v. 1

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

A Contemporary Word

What if the deeper you know our own brokenness,
the deeper you can experience your own belovedness?
— **Anne Voskamp**

Our life is full of brokenness—broken relationships, broken promises, broken expectations.
How can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful
except by returning again and again to God’s faithful presence in our lives.
— **Henri Nouwen**

Until we learn to love others as ourselves, it’s difficult to blame broken people
who desperately try to affirm themselves when no one else will.
— **Richard Rohr**

An Ancient Word

Matthew 11:28-30

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message “Bringing our Brokenness to Jesus”

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Preparation

Touch the Earth Lightly
Glory to God #713, v 1, 3, 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.

Ritual Action

Leader: Ash Wednesday, as the beginning of Lent, was developed in the 5th - 6th centuries, and was mandated in the 11th century. Although Protestants did not maintain this ritual for the most part, it has come back during the 20th century liturgical movement as an important time for reflection in which we reclaimed this symbol and ritual of our spiritual ancestors.

People: It plays an important role in helping us make meaning in the brokenness of our lives. This year, indeed, we are aware of the fragility of life.

Leader: Even though we cannot share ashes in the ways we have become accustomed, let us engage in a ritual that draws us close to the elements of creation – earth, fire, air, and water. Let it remind us that we are a part of creation, in all its beauty and its brokenness.

EARTH –

Leader: The sand upon which our symbol of beach glass washes is, interestingly, the origins of glassmaking.

People: Glass is liquified, heated sand. In a way, the shards of beach glass are the epitome of “dust to dust” ... or in this case, “sand to liquified sand.” To take it back even further, sand is created by the erosion of mountains and rocks over thousands or millions of years.

Leader: So, whether what you have on hand today is soil or sand, we are witnessing the brokenness and erosion and weathering of the earth itself.

People: All things become broken. All things transform. And every form we take is holy, whole, and beautiful.

Leader: I invite you to touch the sand or soil you have with you in this moment. Feel its grains, it's decomposed nature, as we pray:

People: Holy Creator God...as we feel this elemental part of who we are, we remember that we ourselves were made from the dust of the earth. To experience brokenness is the way of creation, it is not something to be ashamed of...it is the order of things. Transform us, O God. Help us recover the beauty of who we are and see the goodness in transformation. Amen.

FIRE –

Leader: Glass can only be created when the sand is met with the heat of fire. No wonder the scriptures and poets throughout the ages have spoken of a “refining fire.”

People: The heat of fire is always destructive,
but with intention and care and tending,
what transpires from the destruction of fire
can be a new form with purposes that are good, useful, and beautiful.

Leader: I invite you to light your candle, if it is not already lit.
Gaze upon the colors of the flame
which may be white or gold or red or blue, as we pray:

People: **Holy Refining Fire of the Spirit...**
as we feel this elemental part of who we are,
we remember that you invite us to fuel the flames
of passionate love for you and for each other.
Do not allow the flame of our spirits to lie dormant.
Offer us your light and life.
Transform us, O God.
Help us recover the beauty of who we are
and see the goodness in transformation. Amen.

AIR –

Leader: The scriptures depict the creation of human beings
as having Holy Breath blown to animate our being.

People: **Glass vessels gained a new technique around the time of Jesus.**
In the first century BCE, glass blowing was invented,
offering a way for molten glass to be shaped by blowing through a tube,
creating an air bubble, a glass vessel,
ready to for practical or artistic purposes.

Leader: Breath is part of the creation of our Holy Vessels.

People: **Breath is with us in our very first cry**
and will be the final song as we exit this realm.

Leader: I invite you to close your eyes, if this is comfortable for you,
and become aware of your breath as we pray:

People: **Holy Giver of Breath and Life...**
as we feel this elemental part of who we are,
we remember that this ongoing, life-giving,
usually automatic, moment-to-moment function
can be an act of gratitude for our very origins.
And this is the core of our relationship with the creation –
sharing and existing within this atmosphere.
Just as our breath offers us opportunity to let go of that which
we do not need in order to take in the fresh air we need,
transform us, O God.
Help us recover the beauty of who we are
and see the goodness in transformation. Amen.

WATER –

Leader: As the water meets the sand and earth at the shoreline,
we also are invited to a journey
of meeting the Living Water that Christ offers us.

People: Ancient peoples made wet soil in many forms as healing balms.
Skin moistened, blood flow increased to the area, muscles relaxed.

Leader: This still is practiced today in many places.

People: **Our Lent series about healing, then, gives us an opportunity to use this as our Ash Wednesday ritual of anointing.**

Leader: I invite you to mix a little water with the soil or sand that you have with you and create a wet mixture.
 Then place some in your palm – the same palm used in greeting other palms, signifying interdependent relationship.
 Gently rub it, making the sign of the cross, as we pray:

People: **Healing Presence...as we feel this elemental part of who we are, we remember you created us, shaped us from dust in the palm of your hand. Some day we will return to dust, return to the palm of your hand once again, held and loved forever. We lament in this moment the grittiness of life, the need for healing, the difficult and necessary process of transformation. Mark us as your own, remold us again and again as your people. Let the recognition of our own need break us open yet again for the sake of others, for the sake of the world. Amen.**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Glory to God #792, v. 1

Commission and Blessing

Leader: Now go with confidence that, though shattered, we are held.
 Begin the journey of recovering your depth of love for all and your joy of living in this world.

People: **May the words of Jesus ring in your ears: “I will give you rest.”**

Leader: And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul and a spring in your step. Amen.

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm
Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks
Liturgist – George Van Hare
Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters
Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons
Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

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 17, 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 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?

"Memento, homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris."

George Van Hare, for the Worship Committee

Brokenness Made Beautiful, a Lenten Offering

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:

- Thursday, February 18, between 2pm and 4pm
- Friday, February 19, 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.”

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:

1. 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.

2. 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