



Trinity Presbyterian Church
6800 Washington Avenue
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University City, Missouri 63130
www.trinityucity.org

facebook.com/trinityucity
trinityucity.org/worship

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

“TREASURE” SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town.
As we gather virtually, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, for help.*

Prelude

“Through Moanin’ Pines” from *From the Southland*
by H.T. Burleigh

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

Leader: Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love.
People: **We have been through a challenging time since last Lent
that has shattered our sense of wholeness – body, mind, and spirit –
like a glass vessel fractured into pieces.**
Leader: Let us enter a Lenten “season of recovery”
as we focus on Jesus, the Healer of our every ill.

Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music

Holy Vessels
Words by Marcia McFee; Music by Chuck Bell

Leader: Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded.
As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished
until it becomes a treasured “mineral gem.”

**People: We do not embrace that suffering is necessary or God-given,
but that suffering is a part of life.**

Leader: When pain comes and brokenness enters our lives,
Jesus reaches out to touch and remind us of the Treasure that we *all* are –
worthy of new life in the midst of hopelessness.

**People: In a year when pandemic has wreaked havoc on our world,
we begin by affirming our journey to physical health.**

Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music Reprise

Holy Vessels

Gathering Song

Healer of Our Every Ill
Glory to God #795, v. 1-4

*People opened their lives to Jesus.
We are drawn to the Healer – opening our hearts with honesty about our lives
and finding assurance that offers peace.*

Invitation to Confession

Leader: Lent developed into a season of intense inward reflection and confession
centuries after the life of Jesus.
Yet, as we will see, Jesus encouraged people to open up about their lives –
to speak truth – no matter how broken.
This is the beginning of compassion for ourselves and others.
It is the beginning of healing.
The Latin origins of the word “confess” is to “study and acknowledge.”
This will be a season of studying how we can be
a healing presence in our community.
To do this, we acknowledge our need to restore our own Holy Vessels.
Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Creator God, we are bodies fashioned by your hand in your own image, shapes and colors of
diverse and immense beauty. And yet too often we have ignored the sacred nature of our physical lives.
The Holy Vessels you have fashioned are tired and suffering, ravaged by months of disrupted rhythms
and ailment. Our fragility has come into full view and we are frightened. We cannot fathom the
proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from our own needs.**

**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

Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music Reprise

Holy Vessels

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: I invite you to feel a warmth begin to arise within the core of your body.
It may help to keep your eyes closed.
Imagine a warm orb of light deep within you.
This warm glow begins to emerge from the recesses of your inner being
to fill and flood your whole body
until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward.
You are surrounded by light.
Feel this warmth wrap you as a blanket of assurance.

Know this: God's love and grace surround you...
No. Matter. What.
You are a precious and holy vessel right now.
Christ's light is a treasure given freely.
For you, for me, for all.

Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...
and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

Passing The Peace

Leader: I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you
extending to those who may be next to you in close proximity.
Imagine it extending beyond your walls to
the neighborhood...
the wider community...
the church...
and seeing it spread like the rising sun, let it expand to all the world.
Let this be our peace.

People: Amen.

Leader: If you have not already, I invite you to open your eyes.
The peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: As our greeting and passing of the peace today,
I invite you to type into the comments "You are a Treasure."

Song of Praise

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

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

*People were fortified by Jesus' words and deeds that revealed care for all –
especially those marginalized.
We strengthen our belief in the possibility for renewed health and vigor for all.*

A Contemporary Word

True wisdom is like an ocean; the deeper you go the greater the treasures you'll find."
— **Matshona Dhiwayo**

Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life.
I can choose to sit in perpetual sadness, immobilized by the gravity of my loss,
or I can choose to rise from the pain and treasure the most precious gift I have - life itself.
— **Walter Anderson**

Some people spend so much time hunting treasure that they fail to see it all around them.
It's like sifting through gold to find the silt.
— **Richard Paul Evans**

Musical Proclamation

Sacred the Body
Glory to God #27, v. 1-4

An Ancient Word

Matthew 8:1-4; 16-17

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message "Believing God Treasures Us"

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Preparation

You Are Mine
Glory to God #177, v. 1-4

Trinity Staff Salute

Jim Person

*People who were healed by Jesus were not afraid to ask.
And so we come before the Holy One, making our petitions and desires known,
trusting the work of the Spirit.*

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.

*The parting words Jesus gave to those he healed
were often as much balm as the healing act itself.
We hear words of encouragement from the One who makes beauty from brokenness.*

Ritual Action for the Week

Leader: The words of Jesus we heard in this week's healing story were
"I do choose. Be made clean!"

People: **Faced with a request, and given the choice, Jesus chooses to say "yes."
And he says "yes" to each precious and treasured life.**

Leader: Recovered wholeness is offered to everyone and will look different for each one.
I invite you to pick up a piece of beach glass now and examine it closely,
noticing the worn edges and the color, feeling the texture and thickness.
Examine it as a treasure that is completely unique, which of course it is.

Then shift your thinking to your own rough edges.
What broken edges in your own life need help?
What will you do in this Lent season
to focus on healing of body, mind, and spirit?

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready,
enclose the broken piece in your hand and hold it to your heart,
breathing deeply and inviting that Spirit to live and move in you
in a special way over the next six weeks.
Keep a piece close at hand... perhaps on your desk, nightstand, or pocket
where you can feel it regularly this week.

Offering

Invitation

Doxology

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful
Glory to God #654, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Thank you, God, for the opportunity to invest in the healing ministry of the church. As we reach out to offer hope of wholeness to our shattered world, we find new meaning for our lives. We are grateful for your faithfulness even when we do not respond. We rejoice that your love is constant through our long nights of weeping and days of suffering. Even in these moments, we celebrate the joy of giving. We pray through the Healer of the world, Jesus. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

*Scriptural accounts of healing often end with responses from the “crowd” of witnesses.
How will we proceed into the brokenness of this world
and respond as the Body of Christ?*

Song of Service

Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come
Glory to God #789, v. 1-3

Commission and Blessing

Crossing the Threshold into the World “Holy Vessels” Reprise

Postlude

Chorale Prelude on “Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele”
by J.S. Bach

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Jim Person

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 FEBRUARY 21, 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.

“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:

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