



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

facebook.com/trinityucity
trinityucity.org/worship

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

“SAFE KEEPING” 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

“Lament” from Three Silhouettes
by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

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: We continue our Lenten “season of recovery”
as we focus on health as essential to our spiritual lives.

Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music

Holy Vessels
Words by Marcia McFee; Music by Chuck Bell

Leader: God gathers us as a Beachcomber gathers
and marvels at every precious surviving piece of beach glass she finds.
People: **We are never alone,
we are never lost to the One who seeks humanity’s wholeness.**

Leader: We affirm our commitment to be the Body of Christ
that knows we cannot be personally healed
until we see the interconnected community as part of the process of healing.

**People: Jesus has the power to re-vision the family of God
in which false boundaries are overcome.**

Leader: In a year of devastating loss of livelihood,
we consider the economic health that reimagines status quo.

Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music Reprise

Holy Vessels

Gathering Song

Let Us Build a House
Glory to God #301, v. 1, 2, 4, 5

*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: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels,
which include the communities of which we are a part.
Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of All, you created us for each other. You set in us a yearning for companionship and an empathy that binds us together, protecting each other and delighting in one another. Yet too often we have broken down our relationships instead of building them up. We have been set against one another with the lie of scarcity. We have built systems and economies that widen the gap of resources rather than safeguarding equitable practices. Too many, and growing numbers, are suffering hardship, food insecurity, joblessness. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.

Help us, Healer. Show us our empathy. Forgive our complacency. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another.

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 imagine a warmth begin to arise within the core of your body.
It may help to keep your eyes closed.
This warm orb of light is deep within you,
a flame always there and ready when you need it.
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.

This warmth that wraps you as a blanket of assurance is one you want to share.
You want all to feel this presence, to kindle this hope.

Know this: This love and security is meant for all people.

No. Matter. What.

We are capable of sharing our light and not running out of “enough.”

Christ’s hospitality that broke through false boundaries points the way.

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 Worthy.”

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

"There is no power for change greater than a community
discovering what it cares about."

— **Margaret J. Wheatley**

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured
by the compassionate actions of its members."

– **Coretta Scott King**

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live."

– **George Bernard Shaw**

Musical Proclamation

Take Us As We Are, O God
Glory to God #312, v. 1-4

An Ancient Word

Matthew 8:5-13

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

"Boldly Approaching Jesus on Behalf of Others"

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Preparation

Together We Serve
Glory to God #767, v. 1-4

Trinity Staff Salute

Diane O'Brien

*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 will come..."

**People: When faced with a request, Jesus makes a move to seek out,
to come to help one
who was previously seen to be outside of help's embrace.**

Leader: He moves outward to gather in
and heal someone unlikely to have crossed his path otherwise.

People: All are within God's circle of Safe Keeping.

Leader: I invite you to take all your pieces of broken glass and put them in a bowl.
As you do so, think about the people you have encountered
or heard about in the last few months who are suffering lack of support.
What could we do to reach out and to focus on healing
of the parts of the human community
we don't spend time thinking about enough?

People: To what part of our community shall we say "I will come..." ?

Leader: Then shift your thinking to your need to be cared for.
What do you need to feel safe?
What connections do you need to strengthen to heal any isolation you may feel?
If you are in need of something,
consider this an invitation to let someone know what *you* need
without feeling embarrassment or shame about it.
Jesus invites us, always, to ask.

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready,
pick up the container of broken pieces and breathe deeply,
inviting that Spirit to live and move in you in a special way
to strengthen your connection to others
and your role in making someone's life more safe.
Keep the bowl in a place you can see regularly this week...
perhaps on your kitchen or dining table.

Offering

Invitation

Doxology

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

How great you are, O God, and how generously you have blessed us! We share our offerings with joy and thanksgiving. May they extend a welcome to friends and neighbors, strangers and foreigners. Let the message we send to the world be an authentic witness to the Gospel. Bless the work we do and the ministry of others on our behalf. We pray in Jesus' name. 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

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
Glory to God #837, v. 1-3

Commission and Blessing

Crossing the Threshold into the World “Holy Vessels” Reprise

Postlude

Hungarian Dance No. 11
by Johannes Brahms

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Diane O’Brien

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 or contacting the church office.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWS AND NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 28, 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.

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 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 and the Session will also provide an oral update on next steps in Trinity's transitional adventure.

“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”

Hymns are the bread and butter of our church music experience, and Trinity has a strong tradition of congregational involvement in worship through music. Now's your chance to get a crash course on their whys and wherefores.

Christian Hendricks, our Director of Music, will lead an adult education online Zoom gathering on this genre, including a brief history, an overview of different styles, a bit of music theory, and a look at the various information our hymnals contain. Think of it as a hymn appreciation seminar!

Please mark your calendar for March 14 at 7:00 p.m. and join us then!

Hannah has scheduled a zoom event for Saturday, March 13 at 9:00am.

She will be reading the book,
"Jesus' Day Off".

Parents, as well as children are invited. It will be great to see each other again! Please RSVP to Hannah.

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