



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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facebook.com/trinityucity
trinityucity.org/worship

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

“RESTORATION” 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

“D’un jardin clair” from *Trois morceaux pour piano*
by Lili Boulanger

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: The demands of following Jesus are great.
People: **He shows us that sometimes
we must make extraordinary efforts to move in a new direction.**
Leader: As we consider the health of humanity,
we cannot ignore the need to heal the very planet that sustains us.

People: We live in increasing chaos
of a beleaguered environment and the hoarding of resources.

Leader: We want to be “saved” by something or someone else,
but we discover this week that we are in the boat
with the One who shows us our power to turn it around, to calm the storm.

People: We protect the jewel that is our home,
restoring something beautiful from scars of the past.

Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music Reprise

Holy Vessels

Gathering Song

Touch the Earth Lightly
Glory to God #713, 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: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels,
especially this holy container of life on which we live – this very planet.
Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Life-Giving God, in the beginning, you created this universe with a phrase, “Let it be...” and the waters and dry land, the sky and the creatures were formed. You set humanity among these wonders and invited us to care and honor all things. We have not successfully answered that call. Seeing the abundance as a feast that would never end, we gorged ourselves, taking more than we could replenish at a rate that could not be sustained. We are beginning to comprehend the magnitude, beginning to see that things cannot just keep going “as usual” and not have dire consequences. We are frightened, which is partly why we are slow to accept it. But we now are witnesses to the forces of a world more broken than when we inherited it: water, wind, and wave, fire, drought, and earthquake that signal it is time to pay attention and to make real change. Too often we think there is nothing we can do – that the change required is too great. It all feels overwhelming and so we look away, sometimes even from the small things that could make a difference for our own community.

Help us, Healer. Show us our ability to chart a different course. Forgive our inaction. 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
and it fills you with determination and courage.
It floods your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward.
You feel strong.

Know this: Jesus asks us to do hard things, to make changes,
knowing we are capable.
No. Matter. What.
We *can* change in order to heal this jewel planet called home.
The calm of Christ in the storm is available.
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 can Make a Difference."

Song of Praise

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

*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

"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe,
the less taste we shall have for destruction."

— Rachel Carson

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in,
where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.

— John Muir

We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

– David Brower

Musical Proclamation

God's Glory Fills the Heavens

Glory to God #690, v. 1-3

An Ancient Word

Matthew 8:18-27

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Crossing into the Unknown"

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Preparation

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

Glory to God #815, v. 1-4

*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.*

Offering

Invitation

Doxology

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Glory to God #654, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Now is the acceptable time to offer our gifts to you, Holy God. Now is the time to pray that they may be used to remove any obstacles which keep others from knowing your grace, experiencing your healing, or being filled with your hope. Now is the time to give thanks for your blessings, praying they will be used to bless others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Ritual Action for the Week

Leader: The words of Jesus we highlight this week from the healing story are "follow me and let the dead bury their own dead."
This may seem like harsh words. And yet we hear Jesus' urgency.
Now is the time to move, no matter how difficult, we cannot wait.
What is past is past.
There is brokenness and there are casualties in its wake.
But we can move forward. We can make changes.
We can face storms because we are a people led by the Healer,
the Calm-in-the-Storm who can offer us faith in the midst of fear.

And so this week for our symbolic ritual action,
we are going to restore some beauty by adding to the beauty of our glass pieces.
You received thin craft wire and if you have not already done so,
you are invited to wrap some of that wire
around one or more of your pieces of beach glass or another similar object,
creating a pendant that can be hung in a window or as a necklace,
a constant reminder of our role as those who must "take care,"
must care for and contribute to, rather than diminish, the beauty of this earth.

Take some time to do this simple wrapping and crafting with the wire and glass.
And if you have not already done so,
we invite you to take a photo and share it with us via Trinity Shares.

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

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

Glory to God #23, v. 1-3

Commission and Blessing

Crossing the Threshold into the World “Holy Vessels” Reprise

Postlude

“To Spring,” from *Lyric Pieces, Op. 43*
by Edvard Grieg

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Brian & Cricket Gordon

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 MARCH 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 Week Worship Services 2021

Although our Holy Week services this year will still be online only, our Staff and the Creative Worship Committee are planning special Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter observances to live stream via Trinity's Facebook page or watch at your convenience on either our Facebook or YouTube pages.

Our Palm Sunday worship will be at our usual 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 28. We are ordering palms and will make them available for pickup from the church so that you can participate in our joyful “parade” and “Hosannas” from wherever you are joining us for worship that morning.

Our Good Friday worship will be at our usual 7 p.m. on Friday, April 2. Our service will include readings from Jesus' Passion as recorded in Matthew's Gospel. It will also include three ritual “anointings” for which you are encouraged to have with you a small bowl of oil – could be a little cooking oil or a scented essential oil.

Both of these services will incorporate themes from our current “Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery” worship series.

Then our joy-filled Easter Sunday worship will be at our usual 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 4 and will include the celebration of Holy Communion. Our worship theme for the service will be “For All Peoples a Feast: Dare to Dance Again!”

We are continuing to work out other details for our Easter service, so continue watching for updates!

“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”

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