



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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PALM SUNDAY

“HOLY, WHOLLY” 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

We Are Many Parts
by Marty Haugen

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: This Lenten season we have seen that the stories of Jesus' healing ministry are filled with words *and* deeds.

People: **When he rode into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday
the people had hopes Jesus would heal
the oppressive system they were living under.**

Leader: We know that his healing was not confined to that moment in history, but offers a new way of life that has made a case for compassion for all, especially “the least,” ever since.
As we head into the events of what we call Holy Week, we begin to see that our ability to forgive ourselves and others is the foundation that can transform infirmities and allow us to move on.

People: We integrate our beliefs and actions for the health of the whole.

Leader: Through the parade of compassionate power we celebrate today,
we glorify God for beautiful words *and* works of wholeness
and share that treasured beauty with others.

People: We know there will still be pain, but we also know Love will win.

Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music

Holy Vessels

Words by Marcia McFee; Music by Chuck Bell

Palm Sunday Parade

Leader: "Hosanna to the Son of David!

People: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes

People: Blessed is the One who comes

Leader: in the name of the Lord!

People: in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

People: Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Gathering Song

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

Glory to God #624, v. 1-5

*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: We have approached confession each week in Lent in such a way
that we lay bare the brokenness in order to begin the process of healing.
Along the way we have acknowledged our need to restore our own Holy Vessels
while attending to our role in the healing of the community and the world.
The work of healing will continue as we integrate all we have learned
with all that we will do moving forward.
For now, we remember how hard it is to move from thinking to doing.
Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Forgiving God, we have opened ourselves to healing and sometimes it is easier to pray nice prayers than to do the hard work of putting into action what needs to happen. Help us remember the sacred nature of the holy vessels that we are, fragile and susceptible to shattering and yet capable of transformation. Help us to see ourselves as you see us. Help us to believe in our ability to change and heal as you believe in us.

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

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: I invite you to return to that warm orb of light
that lives deep within you once again.
It may already be aglow with the excitement of the parade –
the presence of Jesus leading us on.
But if you are struggling, or have struggled in this season of recovery,
to feel this warmth of assurance within you, do not despair.
You are not the one who has to create the light.
It just is.
And it is a pilot light that never goes out.
You will at some time begin to notice it returning to your awareness.

Know this: You are never alone in the struggle.
No. Matter. What.
Jesus is on the journey with us.
Life's parade is not passing you by.
You are part of this Body of Christ, a community seeking healing.
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 not alone."

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

“We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean.
But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.”

— **Mother Teresa**

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

— **William James**

“What we do comes out of who we believe we are.”

— **Rob Bell**

Musical Proclamation

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Glory to God #403, v. 1-3

An Ancient Word

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

1When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

“Riding Toward Destiny”

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Preparation

Standing on the Promises

Glory to God #838, 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)

We could triumphantly claim that you came just for us, Holy One, but your gifts are poured out for all the broken, all the wandering, all the struggling. So, may we be just like you, pouring out our lives and our treasures, so all might be blessed through you, we pray. Amen.

Ritual Action for the Week

Leader: The French word for "heart" is "cœur" and, besides its reference to the physical heart organ, it also means "courage." Certainly, Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was a sign to people that they were worthy to be "saved" – the meaning of the cries of "Hosanna!" Courage in the face of difficulty, and care in the face of being disheartened, go hand-in-hand.

People: Healing is not always an absence of illness, but rather a trust that God is holding our brokenness and we can move on in life with assurance, making beauty in the midst of hard times.

Leader: Last week we were invited to wrap our pieces of beach glass in wire. We have been reminded all week that God restores us to life, wrapping and holding us. This week I invite you to give away what you have created to someone else who needs this reminder.

As you look back on this season of focusing on healing,
what is it you learned that you want to now “give away” to others...
through your words and your actions?

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready,
enclose the piece of glass in your hand and hold it to your heart,
breathing deeply and inviting that Spirit to show you your next steps
in furthering the healing of your corner of the world,
even if it is just your household or neighborhood.
And keep your eyes open this week for the right moment, the right person,
to receive this gift of beauty from brokenness that you have made.
When you give it to them, you might say, “You are not alone.”

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

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
Glory to God #196, v. 1-4

Commission and Blessing

Palm Sunday Parade

Postlude

When Peace Like a River
Glory to God #840, v. 1-4

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Bob Wagoner

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 MARCH 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.

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.

Palms may be picked up from Trinity the following dates and times:

Wednesday during the Food Pantry from 1-3 p.m.

Thursday from Katie Gibbons from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday from Katie Gibbons from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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!"

In conjunction with our Easter worship theme our service will include dance presentations from St. Louis' own Ballet 314 co-artistic directors Rachel Bodi and Robert Poe, and one from "The Umbrella Project."

"Dispatches from the Deep State: The Political Theology of QANON" Adult Education

QAnon is more than a fringe political movement. It has embraced the tradition of American exceptionalism, borrows language and imagery from the Bible, and its followers exhibit cult-like devotion. The spread of QAnon conspiracies within US Christianity—specifically white Evangelicalism—reveals something deep and unnerving about the role of religion in US politics. On January 6, 2021, these so-called "fringe" groups took part in an armed assault on the US Capitol. How do we as Christians respond to this radical movement?

Please join us on April 11, 2021, at 7:00 PM for this special adult education presentation by Dr. Ruben Rosario Rodriguez, Ph.D., Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Louis University.

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