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### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

### “STORIES” 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

“Wo die Berge so blau” from *An die ferne Geliebte*  
by Ludwig van Beethoven

#### 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: Those who collect beach glass often become “archaeologists” –  
seeking out any markings or clues as to the story of the original piece.  
It often takes much time to bring out the truth behind it.  
This week we acknowledge the power of truth-telling as a healing property.

**People:** There are stories that have shaped our lives,  
leaving us without the ability to see who we truly are in the eyes of God  
and leaving us without the ability to speak the depth of our stories of struggle.

**Leader:** We focus on the importance of recovery of mental health,  
reclaiming our sense of who we are  
and being able to proclaim new redemptive stories of Divine worth.

## Crossing the Threshold into Worship Music Reprise

Holy Vessels

## Gathering Song

**Out of the Depths**  
*Glory to God #424, v. 1, 3, 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,  
and that the health of our minds deeply affects our physical and spiritual health.  
Let us pray:

## Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Centering and Calming Divine Breath of God, you gifted us with amazing minds, capable of so many things. You gave us the ability to think and feel, imbuing us with discernment of thought and emotion. Like our physical bodies, sometimes this aspect of our selves is beleaguered. We struggle under the strain of disappointment, despair, and delusion. Too often we hide this, afraid of what others might think of our difficulties in managing or moving forward, even in the face of devastating circumstances. Too often we perpetuate the stigma of a less-than-perfect state of mind by shaming ourselves and others. Millennia of misunderstanding compounds our fear. We label and belittle, all the while turning the hatred upon ourselves, for no one is immune from troubles of the mind at some point. So many are suffering now, God, weary and distraught, grieving and at the end of their rope. 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 capacity for compassion. Forgive our inattention.  
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 and search for a warmth at the core of your body.  
It may help to keep your eyes closed.  
This warm orb of light is deep within you,  
although sometimes it feels dulled, even cold.  
If it feels this way now, allow this.  
Do not judge yourself.

Perhaps you DO feel this warmth, and all feels right with the world.  
This just is.  
You likely will not always feel that way.  
Whether or not you feel the warmth of peace and assurance right now,  
this does not make you right or wrong, good or bad.  
It just makes you human.  
And you are not alone.  
Perhaps you can imagine the warmth  
coming from someone whose presence fills you with comfort.  
See it radiate from them to you, as it does when you need it most.

Know this: You are accepted.  
No. Matter. What.  
Accepting the truth of our difficulties is part of the journey of recovery.  
Sharing our stories of difficulty can open the way for 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 Accepted."

### 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

Tell the story of the mountain you climbed.  
Your words could become a page in someone else's survival guide."  
— **Morgan Harper Nichols**

Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process  
is the bravest thing that we will ever do."  
— **Brené Brown**

"Your heartache is someone else's hope.  
If you make it through, somebody else is going to make it through.  
Tell your story."  
— **Kim McManus**

## Musical Proclamation

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**  
*Glory to God #435, v. 1-2*

## An Ancient Word

**Matthew 9:27-33**

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you." And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, "See that no one knows of this." But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Message

**"Liberating Our Stories"**

**Rev. Marilyn Gamm**

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## Song of Preparation

**I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**  
*Glory to God #775, v. 1-3*

*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.*

## Offering

**Invitation**

**Doxology**

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

## Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

May our gifts be used to answer the needs of those who seek you, O God, delivering them from their fears, listening to their cries for help, offering refuge to those who are searching for hope. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Celebration of Holy Communion

### Invitation

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

*A time for silent prayers will be offered during the Great Prayer.*

Leader: Our Beach-Breakfast-Preparing God is with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to our God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, .... their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

*by Christian Hendricks*

Piano

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, lord God of love and light, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

The image shows a piano accompaniment for the Sanctus. It is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music consists of a melody in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, lord God of love and light, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry." The piece ends with a double bar line.

Leader: Holy are you, .... mystery of faith:

## Memorial Acclamation

*by Christian Hendricks*

1. Christ has died, 2. Christ is ri - sen, 3. Christ will come a - gain. 4. A - - - men.

The image shows a musical score for the Memorial Acclamation. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music consists of a single melodic line. The lyrics are: "1. Christ has died, 2. Christ is ri - sen, 3. Christ will come a - gain. 4. A - - - men." The piece ends with a double bar line.

Leader: Pour out your ... And now let us pray together the prayer  
Jesus taught his disciples to say:

## 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.

## Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

### Sharing the Bread and Cup Together

Prayer after Communion: (Unison)

Healing God and Giver of cup and bread, send us from your Table in confidence that we are your own children, born of your Spirit, fed at your Table, filled with your Grace, sent to speak your Truth and offer your Love to the world in Christ's name. Amen.

*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?*

### Ritual Action for the Week

Leader: The words of Jesus we heard in this week's healing story were  
"Do you believe I am able to do this?"  
Jesus' question invites us to consider our own belief in transformation.

**People: He invites us to step into a renewed vision of our lives,  
to speak into being a new story, not be bound by the stories of the past,  
inscribed on us by others, that may be oppressing and limiting us.**

Leader: Last week we put our glass pieces in a bowl.  
Beach glass is usually somewhat cloudy when dry.  
When it comes into contact with water, it becomes clear and bright.  
Today, you are invited to fill your vessel  
containing the pieces with water and watch the transformation.  
As you do, let it be a prayer for clarity.  
Ask for a new way to see the struggles you may be experiencing.  
Ask for understanding and a way forward.

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready,  
pick up the container of broken pieces, now bright and clear in the water,  
and breathe deeply, inviting the Spirit to live and move  
and transform you and others who need clarity for their lives.  
Keep the bowl in a place you will see it regularly this week...  
perhaps in a bathroom near the place where you shower or bathe.

### WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

*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.*

Song of Service

Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries  
*Glory to God #653, v. 1-4*

Commission and Blessing

## Crossing the Threshold into the World “Holy Vessels” Reprise

Postlude

Notturmo from *Soirées musicales*  
by Clara Schumann

### Participants in Today's Worship

**Pastor** – Marilyn Gamm

**Director of Music & Pianist/Organist** – Christian Hendricks

**Liturgist** – George Philips

**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](mailto:admin@trinityucity.org) or contacting the church office.

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**NEWS AND NOTES FOR MARCH 7, 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”

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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