



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Were You There
arr. Fred Offutt

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.

Call to Worship

Leader: We are people of the twenty-first century,
far removed from the upper room.
People: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
Leader: We have put away the festive brass and embellishments,
the chocolate bunnies of Easter Sunday.
Must the message of Easter be put away for another year?
People: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
Leader: We still seek the One who offers life over death, whose love conquers evil.
People: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
Leader: We gather to worship the risen Christ, who offers us new life.
People: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
Leader: Christ is risen!
People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Gathering Song

Called as Partners in Christ's Service
Glory to God #761, v. 1-4

Invitation to Confession

Leader: God doesn't call us to a blind faith...
but to a faith that is eye-opening and mind-expanding.
But we often find it more beneficial for ourselves
to pretend we cannot see or understand God's vision for creation.
So please join me in the prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Patient God, you wait for us to understand. You wait for us to remove the blinders of prejudice, fear, unbelief, confusion. You have offered to us the greatest miracle of all time, the resurrection of your Beloved One, Jesus the Christ. We sang and celebrated last Sunday, but a week has passed, and we have slid back into our old ways of perceiving your presence and love. Shake us up, Holy God! Shake us up and cause us to look with new eyes on our Savior, who came that we might have life, abundantly serving all who are in need. Forgive our stubbornness and our complacency. Reach out to us so that we may reach out with healing love to others, for we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter.
Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults, and gifts us with grace and hope.
Christ comes, to fill us with peace,
that we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness.
Friends, believe the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia!

Passing The Peace

Leader: Since God in Christ Jesus has forgiven us,
let us forgive one another.
The peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.
Please share the peace of Jesus Christ
with those with whom you are joining us for worship.

Song of Praise

Alleluia!
Glory to God #587, v. 1

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: God of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps. In his name, we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

O Look and Wonder
Glory to God #397, v. 1-3

Second Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31 (read by Rev. Ellison)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Message

"When Doors Are Closed"

Rev. Brian Ellison

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Response

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
Glory to God #254, v. 1-3

Affirmation of Faith "Every day is Easter"

by Roddy Hamilton

Leader: When Thomas touched the wounds and set himself free it was Easter day

People: **When Peter's three "yes's" to Jesus finished his three denials
it was Easter day**

Leader: When Mary ready to embalm the dead ran in fear from the empty tomb
it was Easter day

People: **When the disciples looked from afar at a breakfast of fish on the beach
it was Easter day**

Leader: When Emmaus became synonymous with welcome
and the breaking of bread with strangers it was Easter day

People: When Paul was blinded by the light
and recognized the voice niggling in his head it was Easter day

Leader: When the hungry are fed at the table the same table as the rich it is Easter day

People: When weapons are beaten to ploughshares
and peace is a word to be shouted it is Easter day

Leader: When the stranger is welcomed in community
and the lonely are restored to relationship it is Easter day...

People: Amen.

Litany Prayers of the People

A time for silent prayers will be offered during the Litany Prayers of the People.

Leader: Our Savior Jesus Christ,
in this world where hopes are so often dashed and dreams so often broken,
we remember today the faith in the future you brought to so many,
both through your coming and through your resurrection from the dead.
And so Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded,
People: may hope flower again.

Leader: We remember how Mary and Joseph looked forward to the day of your birth,
how shepherds and magi caught their breath in wonder as they knelt before you,
how the hearts of Anna and Simeon leapt in anticipation,
and how your disciples and the crowds that flocked to hear you gave thanks,
convinced that you were the Messiah, the one God had promised,
the long-awaited deliverer come to set them free.
And so Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded,
People: may hope flower again.

Leader: We remember how that vision of the future was shattered by events to follow –
your pain, humiliation, suffering and death –
hope ebbing away as the lifeblood seeped from your body –
an end to their dreams, an end to everything.
And so Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded,
People: may hope flower again.

Leader: We remember how the news spread that the tomb was empty,
the stone rolled away, your body gone,
and how despite it all, your followers could scarcely bring themselves to hope –
afraid to take the risk of faith
in case they should face the heartache of losing you once more.
And so Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded,
People: may hope flower again.

Leader: But we remember finally how you appeared, in all your risen glory –
in the garden, in the upstairs room, on the Emmaus road, by the Sea of Galilee –
and the dream was born again, the smoldering embers of faith rekindled.
And so Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded,
People: may hope flower again.

Leader: Our Savior Jesus Christ, a world is waiting,
hurting, longing, searching for hope, crying out for meaning,
hungry for some reason to believe in the future.
Come again in your living power, and bring new life to all.
And so Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded,
People: may hope flower again.

Leader: And now, God of healing and hope hear us
as we offer our individual prayers
from wherever we are gathered to worship this day,
for ourselves, for our neighbors, friends and loved ones:

Silent Prayer

Thank you, Loving God, for hearing all these our prayers.
Through Jesus Christ Jesus, who has revealed your love most fully,
and the Spirit, who pours it into our hearts,
and who taught disciples when we pray to say:

The Lord's Prayer

John Galczynski recording

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.

Offering

Invitation

Leader: The earth and all it contains belong to God, the world and those who live in it.
With gladness let us now offer from our life and labor our gifts to God.
We continue to welcome your financial gifts to Trinity Presbyterian Church,
and the ways to share are being shown in the live stream.

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Glory to God #606, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Generous and Surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your Christ, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the Gospel. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Glory to God #306, v. 1-5

Commission and Blessing

Leader: Go now with the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: Go to share your faith and your lives.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: Go to proclaim the good news of Easter.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

About This Sunday’s Preacher:

The Reverend Brian Ellison has served since 2012 as executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a national organization engaging, educating and equipping congregations and councils toward an equity not yet fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society. He is also stated clerk of the Synod of Mid-America and of Heartland Presbytery and a host/contributor at KCUR, NPR in Kansas City. Brian was previously pastor of a congregation in the Kansas City area for 13 years, where he still lives with his partner, Troy, and their two dogs, the affable Charlie and the recalcitrant Willoughby.

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Guest Preacher – Brian Ellison

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Jayne Howard and Pat Gibbons

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 APRIL 11, 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.

“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