



Trinity Presbyterian Church
6800 Washington Avenue
314.725.3840
University City, Missouri 63130
www.trinityucity.org

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Variations on a Theme of Robert Schumann, Op. 9 (Excerpt)
by Johannes Brahms

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: The call of Christ is this:
People: Love one another.
Leader: The law and the prophets teach this:
People: Love one another.
Leader: The world calls us to fulfill our desires,
People: But Christ commands us to love one another.
Leader: We do this best not in word or speech,
People: But in truth and action.
Leader: Beloved, let us love one another,
People: For Christ first loved us.
Come, worship God, who is Love.

Gathering Song

Where Charity and Love Prevail
Glory to God #316, v. 1-5

Invitation to Confession

Leader: In our baptism we have taken vows of loyalty to Jesus Christ.
We have made promises in words that have not been lived out in truth.
We have too easily pushed aside God's commands in favor of our own desires.
We are more interested in pleasing ourselves than in pleasing God.
Let us return to the One who is our Origin
to reattune ourselves to God's intent for us as we pray together:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty God, we fail to love one another, because we love the things of this world more. We love having possessions, because they make us feel valued. The more possessions we have, the more we feel safe and secure. We worry that we will not have enough, while others go hungry and homeless. Forgive us for being possessed by our possessions. Forgive us for turning to wealth instead of love. Call us back into your commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we live this out, we know there will be enough for everyone, for you have provided an abundant Earth for us all. Call us into mutual love, understanding, and care. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: When our hearts condemn us for failing to love one another,
we remember that God is greater than our hearts.
God knows us, and loves us still, and forgives us for our shortcomings.
You are forgiven.
Extend that same grace and forgiveness to others.
You are loved, so share this love with one another.
You have no condemnation in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Believe and share this 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 Love, whom Jesus knew as a caring Parent, remind us of your commandments that it may become our heart's most earnest desire to pass on your love in truth and action. Grant us the courage to risk life itself that others may see the Living Christ abiding in us and thus come to know your goodness and mercy. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Anthem

Shepherd Me, O God
by Marty Haugen

Second Scripture Reading

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

“Praying with Our Legs”

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response

Help Us Accept Each Other
Glory to God #754, v. 1-4

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: We believe in God ...

People: **... who works healing in the midst of pain; who looks into each soul with love, touches each memory with blessing and longs for us to know we are beloved; who splashes the world with springtime color and fills the air with the singing of birds and the roar of the ocean; who meets us at the tomb of our fears and sends us out with hope and joy.**

Leader: We believe in Jesus ...

People: **... the risen Christ, the Friend of the forgotten, Savior of the world; the One who by his love persuades us to change; who joins us as we walk and work with the poor and oppressed; who befriends us when we feel lonely, surprises us when we feel bored, prods us when we get complacent; who loves all children, dances with the elderly, shows compassion to the dying.**

Leader: We believe in the Holy Spirit ...

People: ... who weaves us into communities of faith of all ages, nations, and races; who is the presence in every silence, the breath in every deep sigh, the love in every tender embrace.

Leader: We believe we are called to be an Easter people ...

People: ... challenging despair with confident hope, acting peacefully in the midst of painful Good Fridays and living joyfully even in the midst of harsh realities.

Leader: We believe in the church ...

People: ... the singing, passionate, caring fellowship of those who seek you and are found; those whose hands and hearts are joined to your mission in the world. This we believe. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

Offering

Invitation

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Glory to God #606, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of Love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

Rain Down

Glory to God #48, v. 1-3

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Glory to God #339, v. 1-3

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – John Merker

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Soloist – Janelle Pierce

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 25, 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.

**Called Congregation Meeting
to Elect a Pastor Nominating Committee
during the April 25 Sunday Symposium**

CONGRATULATIONS, Trinity! Our Mission and Ministry Study Report reflecting our transitional adventure this past year has been approved by the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry and we have received permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.

The Session has called a Congregation Meeting via Zoom for Sunday, April 25 at 11:15 a.m. during this month's Sunday Symposium with the following three action items:

1. 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.

2. Receiving a report from the Congregation's Nominating Committee proposing a slate of seven persons to elect to serve on Trinity's Pastor Nominating Committee.

The proposed Pastor Nominating Committee slate is as follows:

Steven Crumb
Lorie Damon
Beth David
Sarah Mayer
Mary McKown
George Philips
Catherine Ray

3. Receiving a report from the Nominating Committee proposing the following slate of one person to serve as a Ruling Elder filling a 1.5 year unexpired term on Session:

Bob Parks

Our Mission and Ministry Committee is planning to lead a discussion at the April 25 symposium on explaining its work and talking about its future role in our church. Committee members are excited to tell you about a new beginning and we are very keen to hear what Trinity members think of our ideas.

The committee's new thinking centers around something called Matthew 25, an initiative of the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC (USA) that was launched in 2019. Giddings-Lovejoy is a Matthew 25 Presbytery and some churches within the Presbytery have joined the program. A number of Trinity members may already be familiar with it. Grounded in a reading of Matthew 25: 31-46, it calls on participating churches to focus on three areas: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

If you would like to know more about Matthew 25, we'd recommend reading the relevant passage from the gospel in the link above. To go further, by all means click on the links for the three focus areas and explore the resources we're drawing from. We look forward to talking about all of this on the 25th

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