



Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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[trinityucity.org/worship](http://trinityucity.org/worship)

## ASCENSION OF THE LORD SUNDAY

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

#### Prelude

“Bald prangt, den Morgen zu verkünden” from *The Magic Flute*  
by W.A. Mozart

#### 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 gather awaiting God’s instructions for our lives.  
People: **We eagerly look forward to learning more about ways to serve God.**  
Leader: The time is coming when our service will be needed here.  
People: **Let God’s love flood through our service to others.**  
Leader: Wait! Listen! The time is near!  
People: **Open our hearts and spirits, O God, to hear your Word for us today.**

#### Gathering Song

**Come Down, O Love Divine**  
*Glory to God #282, v. 1-3*

#### Invitation to Confession

Leader: If the people of Galilee spent too much time looking up toward heaven,  
perhaps our problem is that we spend too little.  
In our busyness, we do not examine our busyness.  
Are we about God’s business?  
Are we on a spiritual quest in the mist of all our doing?  
Let us confess the ways things are between ourselves and God:

**Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

**Patient God, it hasn't been easy for us to be disciples or witnesses to your love. We get caught in traps of anger, impatience and fear. Our words and spirits become cynical and jaded. Yet, at all times, you are with us, guiding and guarding us. On this day in which we celebrate the ascension of Jesus to your side, we are reminded that we are not being left without guidance. The promise of the Spirit is given, and, in that promise, we have hope and courage to become true disciples. Forgive us when we forget that! Forgive us when we act as though you didn't care about us or about this world. We are called to be those who live the faith of hope and reconciliation, of courage and understanding. Lift us up when we have fallen, guide our hearts when we speak, for it is in the name of our risen Savior Jesus that we ask these things. Amen**

**Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

**Leader:** Celebrate, dear friends!  
God's Spirit will be coming to you to give you hope and courage.  
And 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 amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

**Luke 24:44-53**

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**Anthem**

**Psalm 47**  
*by Michel Guimont*

## Second Scripture Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message "Living in the In Between"

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Response

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

*Glory to God #378, v. 1-4*

Affirmation of Faith adapted from Litany for Ascension Day

by Christine Sine

Leader: Because Jesus ascended and sits by God's side,  
a new world has broken into ours—

**People: a world in which justice does come for the poor,  
freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.**

Leader: Because Jesus ascended and sits by God's side,  
a new community has been formed—

**People: a community that loves and cares for all members,  
a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected,  
a place where all find a place of belonging.**

Leader: Because Jesus ascended and sits by God's side,  
a new creation has begun—

**People: all that was distorted is being restored,  
all that is corrupted is being renewed,  
all that was broken is being made whole.**

Leader: Because Jesus ascended and sits by God's side,  
God's new world has begun. Amen.

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.**

## Offering

### Invitation

### Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**  
*Glory to God #606, v. 1*

### Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**Loving God, you pour out your grace upon us without reservation; help us to be as gracious and generous with our gifts and resources, so others might know your hope, your healing, your presence in their lives even in the in between times. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

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

### Song of Service

**Hail Thee, Festival Day!**  
*Glory to God #277, (Ascension verses)*

### Commission and Blessing

### Postlude

**Sonata in C major, Op. 2, No. 3, Mvmt. I**  
*by Ludwig van Beethoven*

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

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEWS AND NOTES FOR MAY 16, 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.*

Dear Trinity Family,

Trinity Presbyterian Church plans an initial reopening of the building **Sunday, June 6, 2021** for limited in-person worship. We plan to then continue this phased reopening approach, first beginning with smaller in-person numbers and moving to larger numbers over several weeks. The details for this will be provided in the weekly Trinit-E-News and will be shared during the worship announcements.

The reopening will be a welcome event for many of us who long to worship together. Our primary concern is for the safety of all. We are so fortunate to have so many medical professionals in our congregation, who have provided the benefit of their wisdom and advice to ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible.

For those who prefer to worship in the safety of their home, we will continue to provide the live stream worship service via Facebook Live, with uploads of the service to YouTube, as we have been doing for the past year. We understand your concern and respect your decision; the Church gathers in worship in many places and ways!

The Session has created the following procedures to help people worship safely. Please take note of these procedures before attending worship:

### **Sign Up to Attend**

To meet the recommendations of St. Louis County for the number of people allowed in the building, those who plan to attend church on any given Sunday should register in advance. A Sign Up Genius registration will be in the weekly Trinit-E-News. You also may register by leaving a message at the church office (314-725-3840). Seating will be reserved by pods, consisting of members of the same household. Some seats will be reserved for members who do not use the Internet and people who may walk in from the community.

**We encourage but are not requiring in person attendees to have been vaccinated. Everyone who enters the building for worship will be asked to check in to enable contact tracing, should that be required. And we do request that you notify the church if within 5 days of attending in person worship you or a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19.**

### **Masks**

For the sake of all, those planning to attend in person worship must be symptom free and have not had contact with a person with COVID-19 for at least 14 days. Masks are required and must be worn covering the nose and mouth. Worship leaders will wear masks except when speaking. If you forget to bring a mask, masks will be available at both church entrances.

### **Entering and Leaving the Church**

All those who are able, please use the Washington Avenue main doors for entering and exiting the church. For those with mobility issues who require the elevator, please enter through the accessible entrance on Kingsland.

As you enter or exit, please practice physical distancing allowing at least six feet between you and other people in the congregation. At each doorway, Ushers will check names off the registration sheet. If you have not pre-registered, you will be asked to complete a registration form. Ushers will practice physical distancing – providing guidance and information but not shaking hands.

Please use the hand sanitizer available at each entrance when entering and leaving.

Ushers will guide each pod to their assigned seating in the pews. You will be asked to stay in your places, with all members of your pod, throughout the service.

When the worship service is over, the congregation will be dismissed by rows through the same doors they came in. Although we have deeply missed worshipping together, we urge those in attendance to avoid gathering for conversation inside as well as at the entrances to the building! Weather permitting, you may chat on the sidewalks away from the building with masks on and observing physical distancing recommendations.

## **Worship**

The worship service is a special time for all our members, but there are necessary changes designed to help keep each other safe.

- ◆ In order to continue providing our simultaneous online worship service those worshipping with us in person will notice small cameras and additional microphones placed across the front of the sanctuary. These will be part of our new normal!
- ◆ Because we will need the bandwidth to continue the simultaneous online worship service, in person attendees will be requested to either put their cell phones in airplane mode or turn them completely off.
- ◆ During the passing of the peace, congregants should not leave their pews or offer handshakes or hugs. A smile and a nod or a friendly wave or the two-finger peace sign from our places are suggested ways to pass the peace while maintaining physical distance. We encourage creativity!
- ◆ For the offering, no plates will be passed during the service. Designated offering receptacles will be near sanctuary exits in which to deposit your financial gifts as you enter or leave the service.
- ◆ The sacrament of Holy Communion is typically celebrated during worship on the first Sunday of the month. We are unable to offer nor partake of the elements during the in-person worship service at this time. Instead, Pastor Marilyn will continue her online practice of celebrating the Communion meal of remembrance at the pulpit and invite those in-person to prayerfully observe and remember.
- ◆ Because there is still a lot of uncertainty about the safety of congregational and choral singing these will not be part of our in-person worship for now. Instead, we ask you to hum, or listen silently as our safely distanced from the congregation contract soloists sing the hymns and offer other special music. Swaying and tapping your feet is welcome, too!
- ◆ For a baptism, please make an appointment to discuss with the pastor.

During in person worship the doors and windows will be open to facilitate the flow of fresh, outdoor air in the sanctuary.

The downstairs areas of the church will remain closed at this time. Families are invited to bring their own quiet activities for use in the pews.

The restrooms across from the Weems Chapel will be open. A container of wipes will be in each and users are requested to use one to wipe all handles after using these facilities.

We look forward to seeing you, worshipping with you and being God's holy church in person and online! If you have any questions about attending worship or the procedures as outlined in this letter, please email [communications@TrinityUCity.org](mailto:communications@TrinityUCity.org), or call the office at 314-725-3840.

Peace and good health to you and your families!

The Trinity Session

**Exciting News! Trinity All-Church Retreat to Mound Ridge is scheduled for September 11-12.** Mark your calendar and stay tuned for additional info. to follow.

### **Summer Sunday School Continues**

Each week, Miss Hannah will present a very brief Bible story, accompanied by a picture depicting the story for children to view as the story is being told.

Simple, related crafts and activity sheets will be available in Trinit-E-News each week if interested.

The stories chosen are ones we do not cover in Children's Worship during the programming year.

**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) 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), Bob Parks, Rachel Presti, Tim Rand, Jan Schulte-Glad

#### **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