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## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

#### Prelude

**“Our Evenings”**  
*by Leoš Janáček*

#### 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: Welcome all who abide in the Love revealed in Jesus as the Christ.  
**People: We worship to remember God’s steadfast love and faithfulness.**  
Leader: Welcome all who endeavor to love one another as the Christ has loved us.  
**People: We worship in response to the One who calls us friends.**  
Leader: Welcome all who seek to be embraced by Jesus’ love and friendship.  
**People: We worship because the Christ first loved us.**  
**Come, worship Jesus as the Christ, who is God’s gift of Love.**

#### Gathering Song

**Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather**  
*Glory to God #311, v. 1-4*

#### Invitation to Confession

Leader: God is aware of our obedience to the way of love and our rebellion against it.  
We are invited to confess all that God already knows  
so healing and freedom can be ours in Christ Jesus.  
Let us pray:

## Prayer of Confession

**Jesus, Friend and Sibling, you taught us to abide in your generous love, for it completes our lives and gives us joy; you ask us to love others as you have loved us, for it brings your creation to fruition. We sometimes struggle to love some of the people in our lives as you have loved us. Forgive us, we pray, and teach us your love again. Amen.**

## Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Long ago Jesus said to his first disciples,  
"I have called you friends, because I have made  
known to you everything that I have heard from God.  
You did not choose me, but I chose you!"  
Jesus speaks these words to us today.  
Jesus forgives us and chooses us to be his friends,  
sharing and calling us into his great work of love.  
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 songs and marvels, old and new, your powerful love for this world continues to astound us. In these last days of this Easter season, we gather to recall the love that brought Jesus into this world and into our lives: as Savior, Friend and Sibling. We thank you for welcoming us into your household and for trusting us with your marvelous work to draw all people into the spacious home of your love. We pray in the name of the one who calls us "friend." Amen.

### First Scripture Reading

**1John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

### Anthem

**Sing a New Song unto the Lord**  
*Glory to God #276, v. 1-3*

## Second Scripture Reading

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

“Embracing Jesus' Friendship”

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Response

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*Glory to God #465, v. 1-3*

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.**

## Mother's Day Litany Prayers of the People

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

Leader: On this day, we honor those who have mothered us and cared for us.  
For some, this will be a birth mother,  
and we may wish to express our grateful thanks.

**People: We pray that our lives may reflect the love they have shown us.**

Leader: For others, it will be the women who raised us,  
who were our mothers in childhood –  
an adopted mother, older sister, aunt, grandmother,  
stepmother or someone else.  
We may wish to express our thanks for those women  
who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain.

**People: We pray that our lives may reflect the love they have shown us.**

Leader: We pray for older mothers whose children are grown.

**People: Grant them joy and satisfaction in how their children's lives unfold.**

Leader: We pray for those with adult children,  
but whose lives are still shaped by their children's needs and cares.

**People: Grant them strength, patience and wisdom.**

Leader: We pray for new mothers experiencing changes they could not predict.

**People: Grant them rest and peace and confidence as the days unfold.**

Leader: We pray for pregnant women who will soon be mothers.

**People: Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who face the demands of single parenthood.

**People: Grant them strength and wisdom.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who enjoy financial abundance.

**People: Grant them time to share with their families.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who are raising their children in poverty.

**People: Grant them relief and justice.**

Leader: We pray for the challenge of blended families,  
and those who take on care of others' children.

**People: Grant them patience and understanding and love.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who are separated from their children.

**People: Grant them faith and hope.**

Leader: We pray for mothers in marriages that are in crisis.

**People: Grant them support and insight.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who have lost children through illness,  
or death come too soon.

**People: Grant them comfort that their children are held in Divine embrace.**

Leader: We pray for mothers in developing countries  
who die in childbirth due to inadequate maternal health care,  
or whose children die too young.

**People: Grant that generosity may abound,  
that money will be released for resources,  
and to attract skilled personnel who can support the women and children.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who have terminated pregnancies.

**People: Grant them healing and peace.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who gave up their children for adoption.

**People: Grant them peace and confidence  
that the children will be held in good care.**

Leader: We pray for adoptive mothers.

**People:** Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift of life entrusted to them.

Leader: We pray for girls and women who think about being mothers.

**People:** Grant them wisdom and discernment.

Leader: We pray for women who desperately want, or wanted, to be mothers.

**People:** Grant them grace in their particular and often private sense of loss and grief.

Leader: We pray for all women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.

**People:** Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.

Leader: We pray for those people who are grieving the loss of their mother.

**People:** Grant them comfort, and confidence that loving continues in how we live our lives.

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*

Leader: Thank you, Loving God, for hearing all these our prayers.  
And now let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to say:

**The Lord's Prayer**

**John Galczynski**

**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)

**Pour your Spirit upon these gifts, O God. Send them into the world as a sign and song of your joyous work of love. Use them to call and welcome into your house of love all who are your friends and our brothers, sisters and siblings. Amen.**

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

**Song of Service**

**Joy to the World**  
*Glory to God #266, v. 1-4*

**Commission and Blessing**

**Postlude**

**"Tuilleries" from *Pictures at an Exhibition***  
*by Modest Mussorgsky*

Participants in Today's Worship

**Pastor** – Marilyn Gamm

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

**Liturgist** – Diane O'Brien

**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 MAY 9, 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.*

**Summer Sunday School will begin Sunday, May 9.**

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](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), 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