

July 24, 2022



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**Forgive us our Trespassing**  
**By Banksy**

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

**Prelude**

**Prelude in D minor, from Well-Tempered Clavier Book II**  
*by J.S. Bach*

**\* Please rise in body or in spirit.**

#### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you  
**All:** And also with you

**\* Call to Worship** *adapted from Psalm 138*

**Leader:** Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart  
**People:** **When we cried out, you answered O God,**  
**increasing our strength of soul.**

**Leader:** Though we walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve our lives.

**People:** **You stretch out your hand**  
**and your right hand delivers us.**

**Leader:** In your steadfast love, O Lord, fulfill your purpose for us,  
**All:** **do not forsake the work of your hand.**

**\* Gathering Song**

**Great is Thy Faithfulness**  
*Glory to God #39, v. 1-3*

**\* Invitation to Confession**

**\* Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

**Gracious One,  
We confess that we have fallen short of who you call us to be.  
We seek peace and comfort in our lives,  
ignoring the needs of those around us.  
We live our lives in ways that bring chaos and calamity to our neighbors.**

**Cleanse us from sin O God,  
and show us your steadfast love,  
so that in turning to you,  
we may seek unity and peace for all of creation.  
Amen.**

**\* Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

**Leader:** Beloved, in the waters of baptism,  
you have died with Christ,  
and you have been raised up with him to new life.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**People:** Thanks be to God! Amen.

**\* Passing The Peace**

**Leader:** The peace of Christ be with you

**People:** and also with you.

*Please share the peace of Christ with those around you*

**\* Song of Praise**

**Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

*Glory to God #582, v. 1-2*

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Time with Children**

**Rev. Mel Smith**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Reading**

**Genesis 18.20-33**

Then the Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.'

So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.' Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you

destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' Then he said, 'Oh do

not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.’ He answered, ‘I will not do it, if I find thirty there.’ He said, ‘Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.’ He answered, ‘For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.’ Then he said, ‘Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.’ He answered, ‘For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.’ And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

## **Anthem**

## **Remember Your Love**

*by Mike Balhoff, Darryl Ducote, and Gary Daigle*

## **Second Scripture Reading**

**Luke 11.1-13**

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.’

And he said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.” And he answers from within, “Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.” I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

‘So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

Leader: The word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

## **Message**

**Rev. Mel Smith**

**Affirmation of Faith**      *adapted from the Confession of 1967*

**The life, death, resurrection  
and promised coming of Jesus Christ  
has set the pattern for the church’s mission.  
His human life involves the church  
in the common life of all people.**

**His service to men, women, and siblings,  
commits the church  
to work for every form of human well-being.  
His suffering makes the church  
sensitive to all human suffering  
so that it sees the face of Christ  
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.  
His crucifixion discloses to the church**

**God's judgment on the inhumanity  
that marks human relations,  
and the awful consequences  
of the church's own complicity in injustice.**

**In the power of the risen Christ  
and the hope of his coming,  
the church sees the promise  
of God's renewal of human life in society  
and of God's victory over all wrong.**

**The church follows this pattern  
in the form of its life  
and in the method of its action.  
So to live and serve  
is to confess Christ is Lord.**

**Song of Response**

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

**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 glory forever. Amen.**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Offering**

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

**\* Doxology**

**Psalm 138**  
*by Michel Guimont*

**We Are an Offering**  
*Glory to God #710, v. 1*

## Prayer of Dedication

Holy One,

we bring what we have; the work of our hands, the creativity of our minds, the time we give, the financial resource we can offer. Receive these gifts – may they become good news and expressions of your love and presence: food for the hungry, shelter for the unhoused, comfort for the lonely and welcome for strangers. This we pray in the name Jesus Christ, Amen.

## \* Song of Service

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me  
*Glory to God #700, v. 1-4*

## \* Commission and Blessing

## Postlude

“Soave sia il vento” from *Così fan tutte*  
by W.A. Mozart

Please join us in the Chapel for Fellowship after the service

## Participants in Today's Worship

**Children & Youth Minister** – Hannah Peters

**Communications Coordinator** – Katie Gibbons

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

**Liturgist** – Margy Brown

**Pastor** – Mel Smith

**Soloist** – Evan Babel

**Technical Support** – Dylan Voss and Jim Person

**Ushers** – Corie & John Merker, DeAnne & Gordon Brown

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 July 24, 2022

*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.*

## Color Has Meaning

It's hard to miss the colorful, new flag hanging in the front of the church, and that is intentional! As a More Light church, Trinity has proclaimed its commitment to welcome and affirm the LGBTQIA+ community. More Light Presbyterian churches work for “**the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual/ally (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.**” This flag is one of our visible signs of welcome to anyone passing by.

You may be more familiar with the original rainbow pride flag, created in the 1970's at the beginning of the gay rights/gay pride movement. That flag included the 6 traditional rainbow colors that signify: life, healing, sunlight, nature, harmony/peace, spirit. Our flag is the new “progress pride” flag, created in 2018 by queer

designer Daniel Quasar to highlight the more recent conversations within the LGBTQIA+ and wider communities about inclusion and movement forward, as well as progress that is still needed.

Added to the original flag, the new chevron on the left/top of the flag contains white, pink, and light blue, which are the colors of the transgender flag, and brown and black stripes to represent people of color and also those lost to AIDS. The arrow shape evokes movement forward, but also the need for ongoing progress, especially for marginalized LGBTQIA+ people of color and transgender people. (Check out the links below for more information on the new flag and on the importance of transgender people of color in the birth of the gay rights movement at the Stonewall riots of June 1969 and beyond.)

When you pass Trinity's pride flag, know that we are sending a message to the wider world that our theology aligns with the loving, welcoming and justice-minded theology of all More Light churches and that we wish to be a part of conversations about inclusion and progress.

### **Trinity Presbyterian Church Negro Spirituals Initiative Nugget: The Coded Lyrics of Spirituals**

Just as they did in Africa, singing was a way for enslaved Africans to communicate and share information with each other. Once on plantations, they were forbidden to speak with each other, so they communicated through song, in styles they brought with them. Enslaved people were also taken to church by enslavers and they wisely picked up on the fact that their enslavers were moved by Christian theology, so the enslaved decided to use that language to pass messages to each other in their lyrics without the enslavers having a clue what they were really speaking about. These types of spirituals were called "coded spirituals," because on the surface the lyrics appeared to be about God, Jesus, everlasting life, and salvation from the struggles of the world, but the coded messages were actually used to share information about freedom and to coordinate escapes on the underground railroad.

Take the lyrics of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," for example. When we sing it in church, you may be thinking the lyrics speak to that heavenly chariot coming down from the sky to take true believers up to God in heaven once they die. You may imagine looking over the Biblical River Jordan for the band of angels coming for you. But to enslaved people, they were speaking of looking over the Ohio or Mississippi Rivers, watching for members of the Underground Railroad, coming to lead them to free states up north or Canada on their very own version of a "sweet chariot." While spirituals also gave enslaved Africans a way to express messages of hope and shared struggle, many of their songs had double meaning that allowed them to communicate and coordinate right in front of their enslavers, with them none the wiser. Feel free to take a look at the video links below for more in depth discussions of coded spirituals, and stay tuned for education sessions this fall, interactive singing opportunities this fall and winter, and concerts and more education next spring, as Trinity continues its yearlong focus on the history and power of spirituals.

**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.** 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!

**While 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 Deacon Corie Merker, 314-434-8286. Your need will be shared confidentially with our Pastor the Reverend Mel Smith. You also can email her directly at [melanie.smith@trinityucity.org](mailto:melanie.smith@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**

Diana Gray, Kevin Harkins, Diane Hemphill, Jayne Howard, Jane Kaiser, Mary Klingensmith, Sarah New Mayer (Clerk), Mary McKown, Bob Parks, Jan Schulte-Glad

#### **Deacons**

Anna Gardner-Andrews, DeAnne Brown, Stacey Carman, Cricket Gordon, Jennifer Higginbotham, Corie Merker, John Merker, Jim Person, Art Platt, Christy Schindler