



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

facebook.com/trinityucity
trinityucity.org/worship

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

“Come scoglio” from *Così fan tutte*
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.

Introit

Just as I Am, without One Plea
Glory to God #442, v. 1

Call to Worship

Leader: Summer wanes and the autumn draws close.
People: **God, help us to be ready for opportunities of service.**
Leader: We have felt the refreshment of time-away.
People: **God give us spirits of joy for the times ahead.**
Leader: Come, let us celebrate God’s eternal presence and love.
People: **Let us open our spirits to receive God’s direction for our lives.**

Gathering Song

Fairest Lord Jesus
Glory to God #630, v. 1-4

Invitation to Confession

Leader: How easily we notice the sins of others,
finding ways to criticize what they do or do not do.
How much harder it is to believe that we are sinners
needing to repent of habits that separate us from God
and set us against neighbors who are different from us.
Let us seek forgiveness as we pray together:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

The law is easy, Jesus, lists to be made, items ticked as each is fulfilled. Love is messy, people to be heard and seen, consequences and compassion to be considered. But we've lived too long by law – the law of the sword taking lives to achieve our goals; the law of the market seeking gain without thought of the impact; the law of religion handing out judgement in your name. But, the poor and the weak, the diseased and the lonely, the rejected and the sinful find no healing in our laws. So teach us to love, Jesus, as you do, enough to defend the helpless and overturn the tables of the powerful; enough to sacrifice ourselves so others may live. Teach us to love, Jesus, as you do. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: God frees us from human bondage
to live by commandments that build up rather than destroy.
With forgiveness, our Creator draws us close that our hearts may find their true home.
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

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
Glory to God #35, v. 3

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Children's Message

Hannah Peters

Anthem

To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul
By Bob Hurd

Scripture Reading

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes

asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Message **“Focusing on What’s Important to God”**

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response

For the Beauty of the Earth
Glory to God #14, v. 1-5

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

excerpt, written in 2011 by McCormick Seminary Students

**“We trust in Jesus Christ, both human and God.
As God’s Son, Jesus Christ came to this world
to present another way of living – one of forgiveness and love.
Jesus was a subversive citizen and gifted teacher,
a radical movement founder,
and a model of God’s dream for all.
Jesus healed the sick, ate with outcasts and favored the poor.
He worked to reorder power and restore just relationships
and was put to death by the hands of an unjust system.
Jesus took our helplessness and hopelessness to the cross.
Continuing to rebel,
we remain desperate for Christ’s saving grace and reconciliation.
Because of Christ’s rising from the dead,
we are reconciled with God
and enabled to reconcile with one another.”**

Litany Prayers of the People, including an adaptation of “A Prayer for the Start of the 2021 School Year”
by *The Presbyterian Outlook* Editor Rev. Terri Ott

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

Leader: Merciful God, we are grateful for the resilience, innovation and determination our students, teachers, school staff, parents and administrators demonstrated and developed over the past year.

People: We begin this new school year in prayer because we are anxious for our students to resume school in person, yet still be safe from COVID-19.

Leader: We pray for a better year; for a safe return to classrooms; for the health of students, teachers and school staff; for school boards and administrators under pressure to make difficult decisions; and for parents exhausted by the uncertainty and constantly changing plans.

People: Help us, Holy God, to bear with one another in love as we face the new challenges this year will inevitably bring.

Leader: We pray that our teachers banked enough summer renewal to face any new disruptions.

People: We ask that the hard lessons students learned since the start of this pandemic will give them the confidence and courage to face whatever lies ahead.

Leader: With confidence in your ability to do more than we ask or imagine, we pray that faith will deter fear and hope will bring new life.

People: Bless us, Holy God, in our efforts to protect and care for students so they can focus on their healthy development and their studies.

Leader: Lead us all to health and healing.
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.
And now let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to say:

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

God, We Honor You
Glory to God #709, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Eternal God, Creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for the earth, our home, and for the gift of life. Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all the bounty you entrust to our stewardship. This morning along with our financial gifts to support Trinity's mission and ministry we are dedicating this offering of household furnishings we have collected for the Home Sweet Home organization. With these gifts we send our and your love and caring to people who have struggled to establish their own "home sweet homes." May these gifts bring warmth to not only new homes, but to the hearts of those living in them. We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

I Sing the Might Power of God

Glory to God #32, v. 1-3

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

"Harmonies du soir" from *Transcendental Etudes*
by Franz Liszt

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Katie Howard

Soloist – Madeline Black

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Ushers – John & Corie Merker, Jayne Howard

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 AUGUST 29, 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.

Rally Day 2021

Trinity's fall kickoff is scheduled for this Sunday, August 29!

We are excited to support "Home Sweet Home" for this year's mission component to Rally Day.

Home Sweet Home is a local nonprofit organization connecting partner agencies in the St. Louis region with donated furniture and household items. They help clients transition to new living situations with much-needed furnishings and basic household goods. This provides a sense of ownership and stability at a crucial time. They serve clients who are referred with desperate needs, for different reasons, and from a variety of backgrounds. The services provided by Home Sweet Home are needed most by children, survivors of domestic abuse, veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and ex-offenders looking for a new start.

Please participate in supporting this valuable organization.

Items may be brought to the Trinity sanctuary Narthex or the Kingsland accessible entrance Sunday mornings or by appointment with Katie Gibbons in the church office through Sunday, August 29.

We will display all items collected on Rally Day.

Questions or for more information please contact Hannah Peters.

Bob and Nancy Wagner Memorial Service

Trinity Presbyterian Church

September 23, 2021 at 10 a.m.

The family of long-time Trinity members Bob and Nancy Wagner has worked with Pastor Marilyn to plan an in person and online memorial service September 23 at 10 a.m.

Due to Trinity's ongoing pandemic attendance capacity restrictions, the family is taking reservations at nancywagner1718@gmail.com.

Everyone else is welcome to attend a live stream of the service via Trinity's Facebook page or watch the recording later there or on our YouTube page.

Following the service will be a gravesite urn placement and catered buffet luncheon at Bellefontaine Cemetery at 11:30 a.m.

To assist with the meal planning the family is also requesting persons planning to attend the luncheon to RSVP to the above email address.

Nancy Wagner was welcomed into God's loving arms on March 30, 2020.

Bob Wagner was welcomed into God's loving arms on March 4, 2021.

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Please join us for a discussion with the author of a new book on poverty on Sunday October 3 at 7pm.

As part of our commitment to the tenets of Matthew 25, Trinity UCity is organizing a discussion via zoom on SUNDAY OCTOBER 3rd at 7p.m.

The speaker will be Mark Rank*, Herbert Hadley Professor of Social Welfare at Washington University.

Mark will be talking about a new book he has co-authored, *Poorly Understood: What America gets Wrong About Poverty*. There will be time for Q&A.

All are welcome, whether or not they read the book.

We have invited all the Matthew 25 churches in our Presbytery to join in the first of what we hope will be more opportunities to get together.

Please contact Katie for the Zoom login information, or find it in our E-Newsletter

Media reports say that more than 1,000 Afghan refugees will be coming to St Louis. If you want to help, the International Institute is a good place to start.

Jobs: Right now they have 7 openings for full time staff and 5 Americorps positions open. That's a lot for a lean organization such as II.

Volunteers: Many of II people are working on their Festival of Nations, happening at 9 Mile Garden, Gravois St, Affton on Saturday August 28. All the information is located on the festival website, www.festivalofnationsstl.org. They are still looking for volunteers for this event. It will be a lot of fun.

Get involved: This page (<https://www.iistl.org/get-involved/>) has a lot of great ways Trinity could help, apart from donations.

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!

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), 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 Sorensen