

September 13, 2020

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

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

facebook.com/trinityucity
trinityucity.org/sundays

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

“Vocalise”

by Serge Rachmaninoff

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: Disciples and doubters, faithful and feckless,

People: we are God's, who welcomes us all.

Leader: Followers and those who lag behind, open-hearted and close-minded,

People: we are Beloved siblings of Jesus, who is always patient with us.

Leader: Reconcilers and rabble-rousers, foolish and fearless,

People: we are the Spirit's, who encourages us in every moment.

Gathering Song

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Glory to God #234, v. 1-4

Invitation to Confession

Leader: As we stand before God, we think of all the ways we bicker with others,
all those times we have not shown mercy and grace to those around us.

Let us bow our hearts and confess our sin to God, as we pray together:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

It is never easy for us to confess but deep down inside, we know that graced, we have trouble being grace-full to others; forgiven, we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us; freed, we find ways to put restrictions on people we fear.

Forgive us, Servant God. You show mercy more often than we deserve; you pardon us more times than we can count. And why? Because we are your Beloved Ones, sisters and brothers and

siblings of Jesus Christ, who died and lived again, so we might live beyond death with you. It is through him that we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: God's hand of mercy is stretched out to us,
Making a way through all that threatens us, to touch us with grace and hope

**People: We stand before our God,
singing praise to the One who turns our despair into joy, our fears into faith.**

Leader: Believe in the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia!

Passing of 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

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God #582, v. 1-2

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: God of Grace, whose strength enables us to stand against the temptations we face and whose judgment discerns our deepest motives, empower us by your Word to embody the grace-full Spirit of Christ in our relations with one another, and in our care for all people, that oppression may end, desperate needs be met, and mercy be extended to all your children. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103

by Michel Guimont

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: “**Responding to Grace with Gratitude**”

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response

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

Offering

Invitation

Doxology

O Lord, Our Lord
Glory to God #613, v. 1

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

May these simple gifts offer a welcome to the friendless, a meal for the hungry, shelter for those in disasters, and hope for all who are despised in our times. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Special Music

“God Took a Walk on Mound Ridge”
Baker Symes

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

A time for silent prayers will be offered during the Great Prayer.

Leader: May the God of Hope be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: God, our God, leads us through the flood of fears
into the future of wonder and hope.

**People: We open our hearts to the One who journeys with us,
in the past, in the present, into tomorrow.**

Leader: God goes before us, preparing the Table piled high with grace and peace.

**People: We sing songs of glad thanksgiving
to the One who fills us with goodness and mercy.**

Leader: You stretched out One who saves:

**People: Living, we serve others in God’s name; serving we die unto ourselves;
dying, we are given life eternal with God.**

**Blessed is the One who comes forgiving us more times than we can count.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: Holy are you, we call faith:

**People: Baptized in Christ, we would live for him;
forgiven through Christ, we would emulate him;
putting on Christ, we wait for his return. Alleluia! Amen!**

Leader: Creator God, ... 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.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup Together

Prayer after Communion: (Unison)

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world – because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Song of Service

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

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

Prelude No. 10 in G-flat major, from 10 Preludes, Op. 23
by Serge Rachmaninoff

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Cathy Smith

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Soloist – Madeline Black

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, Aleksandar Dragojevic (Section Leader)

Contact Trinity's staff and leadership by emailing admin@trinityucity.org or contacting the church office.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWS AND NOTES FOR AUGUST 13TH, 2020

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight! Trinity's next Zoom-based adult education program will focus on the role of American history providing a key to a new national mindset and racial reconciliation. The presentation will be led by organizers of the St. Louis-area Unpaid Labor Project. The session will consider that today's racial problems arise from a mindset that was used to justify racial slavery. See the E-Newsletter for Zoom information

**“Seeking God’s New Thing:
From Where Have We Come?”**

***“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”
Isaiah 43:19c***

If you were unable to join with us for the August Sunday Symposium it’s not too late to participate in this first leg of Trinity’s transitional adventure in preparation to search for the next called and installed pastor.

Pastor Marilyn will lead additional sessions via Zoom on the following dates in September:

Men’s Lunch Bunch September 15, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Kitchen Cabinet September 17, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Choir September 17, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Anyone can join and participate in these sessions. Please look for the Zoom link information in the Wednesday newsletter.

September and October Sunday Symposiums

Our September Sunday Symposium will be next Sunday, the 20th at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. In addition to spending some time in fellowship, we will mourn and remember together three of our Trinity church family: Nancy Wagner, Jim Shoemaker, and Genny Richmond. We will also have a conversation exploring interest in trying to have an off-site outdoor worship service one Sunday this fall.

Our October Sunday Symposium will be on the 25th at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. In addition to a short fellowship time, we will launch the second leg of our transitional adventure: “Seeking God’s New Thing: Where Are We Now?” Watch the bulletins and newsletters for more information in October.

Save the Dates for our next Adult Education series! Is Christ just the second part of Jesus’ name? Bringing together thinking about Jesus the historical person with Christ as savior, “The Universal Christ” by Richard Rohr will be the basis for the next adult education study, led by Trinity members Diane O’Brien and Jim Person. The six-week series will begin Sunday, September 20, from 7 to 8 p.m.

We are always seeking a variety of musical guests for our services, especially from our own congregation.

If you would like to participate, or know of someone who would, please reach out to Director of Music Christian Hendricks. These musical gifts can be shared in person or recorded (video or audio only), and we welcome all varieties of styles and levels of ability.

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 Margy Brown, 314-452-7241, 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 Realm account and click on the "Giving" tab.

Session

Gordon Brown, Dayna Early, Nigel Holloway, Kris Kerr, Mary Klingensmith, Mike Krivonak, Mary McKown, Brian Muegge (Clerk), Rachel Presti, John Roman, Jan Schulte-Glad, George Van Hare

Deacons

Margy Brown, Bill Cahoon, Kathie Cahoon, Anna Gardner-Andrews, Jennifer Higginbotham, Corie Merker, Jim Person, Art Platt, Diana Regan, Joanne Roman, Cathy Smith, Spirit Sorensen