



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth

Words for Reflection

You can trust a God who not only is sovereign but bleeds for you.

– D. A. Carson

This is the challenge for the believer this side of eternity: we cannot trust our perception of God's closeness to be accurate. God is near whether we feel him to be or not. How mindful we are of this truth will directly affect the way we live.

-Jen Wilkin

You cannot judge God by your calendar. God may appear to be slow, but he never forgets his promises. He may seem to be working very slowly or even to be forgetting his promises, but when his promises come true (and they will come true), they always burst the banks of what you imagined. . . .God's grace virtually never operates on our time frame, on a schedule we consider reasonable.

-Tim Keller

Order of Worship

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— September 15, 2019 —

The Call to Worship

God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live.

—Isaiah 55:1-3 ESV

Hymn of Praise | Come Ye Sinners

We sing praises to God and proclaim through song the good news of what He has done in Jesus' death and resurrection. Some songs might be initially unfamiliar, but we believe the rich, true, beautiful words of these hymns will make their way into your heart.

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,
Full of pity, joined with power.
He is able, He is able;
He is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Bruised and broken by the fall;
If you tarry 'til you're better,
You will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous;
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requires
Is to feel your need of Him.
This He gives you, this He gives you,
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;
Pleads the merit of His blood.
Venture on Him; venture wholly,
Let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good.

Words: Joseph Hart; Music: Matthew Smith

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

We ask for God to be present among us and conclude with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Doxology

Doxology means "glory words." We lift our voices and our hands to give God glory for who He is and all that He has done.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Confession of Sin

We fight the temptation to hide our sin and instead acknowledge it openly to God, but we do so in light of the grace offered in Jesus.

Most Merciful Father,

We praise You that You are a sovereign, covenant-keeping God, and that nothing will keep You from accomplishing Your purposes in Your people and Your world. But, Lord, we confess that our hearts often struggle to believe and rest in Your promises to us. Forgive us for our tendency to turn away from You rather than toward You with our struggles. We thank You that Your grace and promises are steadfast and certain in Christ. Thank You for his atoning work on the cross that guarantees our forgiveness. We pray that by Your Spirit, You would reassure our doubting hearts of that truth. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

God reminds our forgetful hearts of the grace that is ours in Jesus.

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

—Romans 4:3-5 ESV

Song of Response | Be Unto Your Name

We respond in thanks and praise for God's redemptive work in Christ.

We are a moment, You are forever
Lord of the Ages, God before time
We are a vapor, You are eternal
Love everlasting, reigning on high

*Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name*

We are the broken, You are the healer
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save
You are the love song we'll sing forever
Bowing before You, blessing Your name
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Gary Sadler & Lynn DeShazo

Confession of Faith | The Heidelberg Catechism #1

We join the church in history by confessing this basic statement of what Christians believe.

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

The New Testament Reading

Romans 4:16-25

God speaks to us through His Word.

4:16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, **17** as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. **18** In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” **19** He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. **20** No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, **21** fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **22** That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” **23** But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, **24** but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, **25** who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Offering

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God.

Children are now dismissed for TrinityKids (4 years old -2nd Grade). After the sermon, their teachers will return them to worship where they may come directly to you, or you may meet them in the back of the sanctuary.

The Prayers of the People

We lift up our requests to God knowing that He hears us when we pray.

Bradford Green

RUF Campus Minister @ TCU

The Reading of the Word

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

God speaks to us through His Word.

18:1 And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. **2** He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth **3** and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. **4** Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, **5** while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." **6** And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." **7** And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. **8** Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

9 They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." **10** The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. **11** Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. **12** So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" **13** The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' **14** Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I

will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." 15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

21:1 The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. 2 And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. 3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." 7 And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

Becoming a Story-Shaped People

"When God's Promises Seem Laughable"

Sermon Notes

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. It's not a meal for good people. It's a meal for desperate people who trust in Jesus alone for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully with Jesus. You will be invited to come forward. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal today, we encourage you to use the prayers printed below and spend this time in reflection or prayer.

Children who have not received their first communion are welcome to come forward with their families. We invite children who are ready to make a public profession of faith in Christ to arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become "communicants" at the Lord's Table.

**Note about communion wine: The red inner cups in each tray contain non-alcoholic grape juice. The clear outer cups and the common cup contain wine.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Hallelujah!**

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.
Hallelujah!

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayers During Communion

A prayer for those searching for truth:

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

A prayer of belief:

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

A prayer for those struggling against sin:

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

Hymns for Communion

Anchor of Hope

Marvelous, wonderful, infinite God
Author of all that is good
Faithful provider and giver of life
Source of all power and love.

*Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise
Refuge of strength to the end
Righteous Redeemer and mighty to save
He's the anchor of hope for the souls of men.*

Gracious, compassionate, merciful God
Radiant, holy delight
Beautiful Father, victorious Son
Source of unchangeable light.
(Chorus)

Powerful, constant, unwavering God
Shepherd who comes for the lost
Rock of salvation, remarkable love
Savior who died on the cross.
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Ellie Holcomb & Brown Bannister

Help My Unbelief

I know the Lord is nigh,
And would but cannot pray,
For Satan meets me when I try,
And frights my soul away;
And frights my soul away.

I would but can't repent,
Though I endeavor oft;
This stony heart can ne'er relent
Till Jesus makes it soft;
Till Jesus make it soft.

*Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief.
Help my unbelief.
My help must come from Thee.*

I would but cannot love,
Though wooed by love divine;
No arguments have power to move
A soul as base as mine;
A soul so base as mine.

I would but cannot rest,
In God's most holy will;
I know what He appoints is best,
And murmur at it still;
I murmur at it still.

(Chorus 2x)

Words: John Newton; Music: Clint Wells

Departing Hymn | Father Long Before Creation

We respond in faith and song.

*Children are invited to come to the front to lead & sing. Parents are also welcome.

Father, long before creation
Thou hadst chosen us in love,
And that love so deep, so moving,
Draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us.
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion,
Yet our God is e'er the same;
His compassion and His covenant
Through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children
Must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story,
Is my boasting all the day;
Mercy free and never failing
Moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us
That His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee
We will ever praise Thy love,
And our songs will sound unceasing
'Til we reach our home above,
Giving glory, giving glory
To our God and to the Lamb;

Words: Francis Johnson; Music: Andrew Osenga

The Benediction

God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands to receive his blessing as we are sent out as participants in His mission to Fort Worth.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26 ESV

The Sending

The people of God are sent into the world to love God, love people, and love Fort Worth.

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve Fort Worth and the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

Women's Fall Bible Study

The Gospel of Luke, The Conquering Lamb study is underway. It's not too late to join us. Our Friday morning study is from 9:15-11am with childcare at Connell and our Wednesday evening study is from 7-830pm at Emily Pybus's home (4241 Selkirk Dr. W). You can register and pay online. Questions? Contact Courtney (admin@trinitypresfw.org).

Trinity College Student Dinners

College Student Dinners will resume Sept 22 and we need a host home for our first dinner! These dinners are a great opportunity for some of our Trinity church family to open their homes to Trinity College Students and for others to help by attending and providing food. Contact Meggie (mtschissler@gmail.com) to help and with questions.

Women's Ministry Leadership Training

For those Bible study or covenant group leaders who were not able to make 2 or more of the August trainings, please come to the "make up session" on September 22 at 230pm in the Connell Fellowship Hall. Not leading a group but curious? Any woman is welcome to come! Contact Susan Tyner (susan@trinitypresfw.org) for more information.

Nursery Coordinator Position

With so many young children in our congregation, we're excited to announce our search for a part-time Nursery Coordinator! We plan to accept applications until September 30th. If you are interested in applying or learning more, please contact Jeanette (children@trinitypresfw.org)!

The Birds and the Bees

Mark your calendars for October 3, 7pm at Tanglewood Elementary (3060 Overton Park Dr, W). Megan Michelson from The Birds & The Bees will lead a live program that encourages and equips parents to have age-appropriate conversations with their young children about sex. Where do babies come from? How is that baby going to get out of there? The Birds & The Bees want to prepare parents to answer these questions and those like them when their kids are asking them in order to create a foundation for future conversations. Please plan to join us and to invite friends and neighbors! If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette (children@trinitypres.org).

Five Six 9/22

All 5th & 6th grade students are invited to join us for the Five Six on 2nd (coinciding with Second Sundays) & 4th Sundays for snacks, teaching, singing, and games immediately following worship until 6:30pm. Questions? Contact Wade (jewettwade@gmail.com) or David (david@davidwesterfield.net).

Sign-up for Community Groups

Community Groups are essential to our life at Trinity! If you are interested in joining a community group, contact Courtney (admin@trinitypresfw.org).

Jesus Storybook Bible Reading Plan

Over the fall semester, we will read the JSB together as a church using the reading plans available outside the sanctuary. We invite people of all ages to join us!

Mission Spotlight

Fall for Life at Pregnancy Lifeline with a Sip & Serve Coffee, Zoo Fundraiser, Walk-a-thon & More!

During September, there are several ways to learn more about and support the ministry of Pregnancy Lifeline:

1. Join us for PLL's annual Wild About Life, at the Fort Worth Zoo! Saturday Oct 5, 11-1. Includes lunch, face painting, caricatures, animal show, prizes, full day admission and free parking. \$25 adults, \$15 children on sale in the church foyer or <https://pregnancylifeline.net/about/support>.
2. Swing over to PLL's office Thursday, Sept 19 anytime between 9-1030 for a Sip & See for light refreshments, a tour of the facility, and a chance to help with one of several projects tailored to encourage conversation and participation in our ministry to women and their families. Invite a friend, your community group or bible study group. Children welcome!
3. Steps for Life - 40 Day Challenge - keep track of your steps (free pedometers available Oct. 1), gather sponsors, and win prizes for the top 10 Steppers who raise \$40 or more. Register in the church foyer or at step@pregnancylifeline.net.
4. And don't forget to return your PLL Baby Bottles! We're eager to tally your "change to change lives". Questions? Contact Sherry (sherrydenton@me.com).

Daily Bible Readings

Sept 16 - Sept 22 2019

Each week's readings are also online at:

www.gnpcb.org/esv/mobile/devotions/bcp/ or www.esv.org/plans/bcp/

The season after Pentecost is called Ordinary Time and marks the longest portion of the year. This is a time for the church to consider how the gospel plays out in the ebb and flow of ordinary life.

Monday Pss 56, 57, 58; 64, 65 | 1 Kgs 21:1-16 | 1 Cor 1:1-19 | Matt 4:1-11

Tuesday Pss 61, 62; 68 | 1 Kgs 21:17-29 | 1 Cor 1:20-31 | Matt 4:12-17

Wednesday Pss 72; 119:73-96 | 1 Kgs 22:1-28 | 1 Cor 2:1-13 | Matt 4:18-25

Thursday Pss 70, 71; 74 | 1 Kgs 22:29-45 | 1 Cor 2:14-3:15 | Matt 5:1-10

Friday Pss 69; 73 | 2 Kgs 1:2-17 | 1 Cor 3:16-23 | Matt 5:11-16

Saturday Pss 75, 76; 23, 27 | 2 Kgs 2:1-18 | 1 Cor 4:1-7 | Matt 5:17-20

Sunday Pss 93, 96; 34 | 2 Kgs 4:8-37 | Acts 9:10-31 | Luke 3:7-18

Week At-a-Glance

Wednesday Women's Evening Bible Study, 7-830pm @ 4241 Selkirk
Youth: HS Large Group, 730-845pm @ FWPC

Thursday Morning Prayer, 645-715am @ Trinity Office
Youth: HS Agape Meal

Friday Women's Morning Bible Study, 915-11am @ Connell

Sunday Five Six, after worship @ Connell
College Dinner, after worship @ TBD
Youth: MS/HS Small Groups, 530-7pm @ FWPC

Information

To the Parents of Young Children

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. We believe the church is for all people, even children, and we want Trinity to be a church where children are both seen and heard. So don't worry if your children wiggle in the pews or make a little noise! We invite you to keep your children in our service and help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, use the children's bulletins (available in the back), and participate in worship. We do also have a nursery program that is set up to handle children from birth to 4 years old, and a TrinityKids program during the sermon for children 4 years old through 2nd grade. Parents often check their children out of the nursery and/or TrinityKids prior to Communion so that they can help lead us in our departing hymn.

The Liturgy

Our order of worship may be new to you. Every worship service in every church has a structure. We want to be intentional about ours as it is a real back-and-forth conversation between us and God. We have both spontaneous, personal prayers as well as ancient, printed prayers.

Online Giving

If you'd prefer to give online as either a one-time gift or as a recurring gift, you may do so through our website: www.trinitypresfw.org/give. Giving is seen only by the Deacon & the team in charge of counting the offering for that particular day and by our Church Administrator.

Church Contact Information

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Deacon of the Day

Mark Evans

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Our Mission

Trinity exists to embrace, embody, and extend the redemptive message of Jesus to the people and places of Fort Worth and beyond.

Our Core Commitments

Trinity is a gospel-centered church committed to following Jesus by...

- Worshipping God together through historic liturgy that is rich, accessible, and emotionally honest
- Striving to know and be known in our life together
- Engaging in formative spiritual practices
- Extending the welcome of the gospel in word and deed
- Serving our city

Meeting Address: 4736 Bryce Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107

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Web: www.trinitypresfw.org

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).