



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

— February 7, 2021 —

Words for Reflection

Rooted in the eternal love of the Triune God, the Father sends the Word to create fellowship by the Spirit with a people whom he has appointed to be a sign of his sovereign love for the whole creation. God gives the Word to his people through preaching, baptism, and the Lord's Supper, which are instruments of grace received by the Spirit through faith. The sacraments are material signs and seals of God's covenant promise, through which the Risen Christ communicates his person and benefits by the power of the Spirit. Baptism is the sacrament of incorporation into Christ and his body, the church; the Lord's Supper is the sacrament of communion with Christ and his people, providing nourishment for grateful service to God and neighbor. Through preaching and the sacraments, the Spirit unites a community of witnesses to Jesus Christ and his kingly love for the world.

– Todd Billings

You are a sinner, a great, desperate sinner; now come, as the sinner that you are, to God who loves you. He wants you as you are; He does not want anything from you, a sacrifice, a work; He wants you alone.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

To be a disciple of the kingdom means hearing and remaining focused on the message of the kingdom in such a way that one is defined by it. The key to spiritual formation is the willingness to listen, the practice of the discipline of listening, and responding appropriately to the received word.

– Klyne Snodgrass

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.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
 hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
—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

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 God,

We praise You for the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Our King. We thank You for the opportunity to hear this Word of the King. And yet, Lord, we confess the ways we fail to truly hear it and receive it. We acknowledge our hardness of heart and the ways it manifests itself in our indifference to Your Word, our fear of suffering, and our materialistic desires. Father, forgive us. We ask that by Your Spirit, You would give us soft hearts and that we would bear much fruit. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

—Titus 3:4-6 ESV

Hymn of Response | In Christ Alone

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

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Words & Music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

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 Sacrament of Baptism

Elizabeth Marie Ainsworth

William Farris Myers

To the Parents (Abby & John Ainsworth and Katie & Robby Myers):

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit? **We do.**
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in their behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own? **We do.**
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? **We do.**

To the Congregation:

Pastor: Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

People: **We do.**

"For you Jesus came into the world; for you he lived his life; for you he was crucified; for you he was raised from the dead; and for you he is coming again. You may not know this story now, but we, your church, promise to tell you this story until you make it your own."

(based on French Reformed Baptismal Liturgy)

The Offering

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God. You may give online at www.trinitypresfn.org/give or through the Church Center App.

The Prayers of the People

We lift up our requests to God knowing that He hears us when we pray and conclude with an Advent prayer that focuses on Jesus' coming.

The Reading of the Word

Mark 4:1-20

God speaks to us through His Word.

4:1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. **2** And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: **3** "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. **4** And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. **5** Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. **6** And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. **8** And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." **9** And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

10 And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. **11** And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, **12** so that "they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven." **13** And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? **14** The sower sows the word. **15** And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. **16** And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. **17** And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. **18** And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, **19** but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. **20** But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

Following the Servant King: The Gospel According to Mark
"Hearing the Word of the King"

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 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.

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.

Hymn for Communion | Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

Pensive, doubting, fearful heart,
Hear what Christ the Savior says;
Every word should joy impart,
Change thy mourning into praise:
Yes, he speaks, and speaks to thee,
May he help thee to believe!
Then thou presently wilt see,
Thou hast little cause to grieve.

Fear thou not, nor be ashamed,
All thy sorrows soon shall end
I who heav'n and earth have framed,
Am thy husband and thy friend
I the High and Holy One,
Israel's God by all adored;

As thy Savior will be known,
Thy Redeemer and thy Lord.

For a moment I withdrew,
And thy heart was filled with pain;
But my mercies I'll renew,
Thou shalt soon rejoice again:
Though I seem to hide my face,
Very soon my wrath shall cease;
'Tis but for a moment's space,
Ending in eternal peace.

Though afflicted, tempest-tossed,
Comfortless awhile thou art,
Do not think thou canst be lost,
Thou art graven on my heart
All thy wastes I will repair,

Thou shalt be rebuilt anew;
And in thee it shall appear,
What a God of love can do.

Words: John Newton; Music: Wendell Kimbrough

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | Father, Long Before Creation

We respond in faith and song.

Father, long before creation
Thou hast 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.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

—Ephesians 3:20-21 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!

* CCLI #5043663 – all songs used by permission

Announcements

Race & History: How Does It Affect the Church Today?

Join us Friday, Feb. 26 and Saturday, Feb. 27 at Connell for our Winter Conference with Dr. Sean Lucas! Sean will be speaking Friday night and Saturday morning on the racial history of our denomination and how it impacts us today. We'll meet in the Sanctuary and will observe all of the same social distancing guidelines that we do on Sundays; nursery is available for the Saturday session only. You can register on the church center app.

New to Trinity

We love seeing new faces (although masked) but COVID makes it harder for us to connect with you and for new ladies to meet people and plug in to the Trinity community. The Women's Ministry Team will host a ZOOM meeting to help fill in the gaps and give you an opportunity to put some names to some faces. Please email Susan (susan@trinitypresfw.org) if you would like to join!

Congregational Meeting Date TBA

Due to date conflicts, our annual congregational meeting will be rescheduled (again). Look for more information to come.

Women's Bible Study

We are going through the book of Hebrews in our spring study. We are meeting either in person, or via Zoom. If you would like to join a group, email Susan (susan@trinitypresfw.org).

Mission Spotlight: Pregnancy Lifeline

In spite of Covid limitations, Pregnancy Lifeline continues to serve women and their families with physical, emotional, spiritual and material needs that accompany unplanned pregnancies. Each week 100 -125 women receive free pregnancy tests, sonograms, children's clothing and items, and especially compassionate and confidential care in a holistic fashion to make healthy life choices. With this love, care, and support, 98% of PLL clients chose life for their preborn babies. The needs during Covid have been especially desperate - so much hopelessness, fear, and additional frustration educating older children drive many new and established clients to seek prayer and help each day. We thank God for the PLL's 47 years of ministry and relationships in our community.

This month, PLL is hosting a Valentine's "Love Life" online auction starting Friday, Feb. 5- Friday, Feb. 12 with new items being added each day, including several from Trinity businesses. If you'd like to donate an item or service, please contact jeanne@pregnancylifeline.net. The link for the auction is: <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/pl-love-life-21088>.

