



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

The First Sunday in Lent
— February 21, 2021 —

Words for Reflection

Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

— John Witvliet

To observe Lent rightly, we have to be persuaded that we *already* stand in God's favor.

— Peter Leithart

If Christianity is mere method, a way of approaching reality, then it is inadequate; but if Christ is risen, trampling down death by death, then the world is a different place even when I do not experience it as such.

— Esau McCaulley

The church's task is to learn to keep our eyes peeled for how God is at work. We gather each week, watching for the coming king. And with the earnestness of the Audubon society, we look for the quiet, overlooked glory in our midst, for God's perplexing yet healing presence in the world. We watch for glimpses of the redemption to come, even now. Through prayer, through gathered worship, through the Scriptures and sacraments, we train our eyes to notice the light in the darkness.

— Tish Harrison Warren

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.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity,

who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

—Psalm 103:1-5 ESV

Song of Praise | 10,000 Reasons

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.

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I worship Your holy name

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

(Chorus)

The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies

before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

(Chorus)

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forever more

(Chorus)

Words & Music: Matt Redman

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 Father,

We thank You that Your Son has come into the world to proclaim and bring the good news of the Kingdom. And yet, Lord, we acknowledge the ways we fail to recognize the presence of his Kingdom. We confess the ways we look elsewhere for the salvation that only he can provide. Forgive us for the ways we refuse to believe that You are at work and instead try to take matters into our own hands. Please have mercy on us through the death and resurrection of our King, and by Your Spirit, enable us to look to Your Son with honest, hopeful expectation of his work in the world. We pray in his name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

—Psalm 103:8, 11-12 ESV

Hymn of Response | Hast Thou Heard Him, Seen Him, Known Him?

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

Hast thou heard Him, seen Him, known
Him?
Is not thine a captured heart?
Chief among ten thousand own Him,
Joyful choose the better part.

*Captivated by His beauty,
Worthy tribute haste to bring.
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,
Crown Him now unrivaled King.*

What can strip the seeming beauty,
From the idols of the earth?
Not a sense of right or duty,
But the sight of peerless worth. *(Chorus)*

'Tis that look that melted Peter,
'Tis that face that Stephen saw,
'Tis that heart that wept with Mary,
Can alone from idols draw. *(Chorus)*

Words: Ora Rowan; Music: Joel Littlepage

Confession of Faith | New City Catechism #24 - #26

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

Q. 24: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Since death is the punishment for sin, Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God. By his substitutionary atoning death, he alone redeems us from hell and gains for us forgiveness of sin, righteousness, and everlasting life.

Q. 25: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more.

Q. 26: What else does Christ's death redeem?

Christ's death is the beginning of the redemption and renewal of every part of fallen creation, as he powerfully directs all things for his own glory and creation's good.

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 4:21-34

God speaks to us through His Word.

4:21 And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? **22** For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. **23** If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." **24** And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. **25** For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

26 And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. **27** He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. **28** The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. **29** But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? **31** It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, **32** yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. **34** He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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 | Psalm 126

Our mouths they were filled,
filled with laughter;
Our tongues they were loosed,
loosed with joy.
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping,
Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
for the day You will reap them!
Your sheaves we will carry;*

*Lord, please do not tarry!
All those who sow weeping
will go out with songs of joy!*

The nations will say,
"He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy.
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Bifrost Arts

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | Hail to the Lord's Anointed

We respond in faith and song.

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression, to set the
captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in
equity.
(Chorus)

He comes with comfort speedy to those
who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy, and bid the
weak be strong.

To give them songs for sighing, their
darkness turn to light,

Whose souls, condemned and dying, are
precious in His sight.
(Chorus)

He shall come down like showers upon the
fruitful earth,
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in
His path to birth.

The tide of time shall never His covenant
remove.
His Name shall stand forever, That Name to
us is Love.
(Chorus)

Words: James Montgomery; Music: Sandra McCracken

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.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

—Galatians 1:3-5 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 tonight at 730pm to help fill in the gaps and give you an opportunity to put some names to some faces. Please email Amy (amybarker625@yahoo.com) if you would like to join!

Congregational Meeting

We have rescheduled our congregational meeting to Feb 28. Please stay after worship for **this** brief annual meeting. The meeting will include a financial update and a discussion of Trinity's vision for the various ministries within our church. If you have any particular items you would like addressed, please email Brian (brian@trinitypresfw.org). Children who are already in the nursery during worship may remain there during the congregational meeting.

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.

Thank you to all who participated with donations and bids for this year's Love Life Online Auction. If you or your bible study or community group would like to serve in other ways, please consider these options:

1. Writing notes to be shared with women coming in for pregnancy tests or sonograms (email jeanne@pregnancylifeline.net for specific instructions).
2. Donating diapers, especially sizes 1, 3 and 6 to the office across from Hulen Mall, 4747 S. Hulen, Suite 103, 76132.
3. Donate new or gently used seasonal clothes, baby and children's items including books and toys.
4. Support the ministry with a one-time or monthly gift of any amount.
5. Pray for the ministry individually or as a group, that PLL might meet the needs of its clients, particularly their ultimate need for salvation in Christ Jesus.

Questions? Contact Sherry (sherrydenton@me.com).

