



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

— May 9, 2021 —

Words for Reflection

We don't know what's best for us. The things I'm most afraid of are often the very things that will set me free. The desolate places in my life that I most want to avoid are the very places God waits to meet me. The things I want most—and which I grip, white knuckled—are often the things that, were it not for God's gracious intervention, would diminish me, even kill me. The way to save my life is to lose it.

— Tish Harrison Warren

Hope is one of the theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

— C. S. Lewis

No man can estimate what is really happening at the present. All we do know, and that to a large extent by direct experience, is that evil labours with vast power and perpetual success—in vain: preparing always only the soil for unexpected good to sprout in.

— J. R. R. Tolkien

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.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples!

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

— Psalm 96:1-3 ESV

Hymn of Praise | Only a Holy God

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.

Who else commands all the hosts of
heaven

Who else could make every king bow
down

Who else can whisper and darkness
trembles

Only a Holy God

Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire

What other power can raise the dead

What other name remains undefeated

Only a Holy God

(Chorus)

What other beauty demands such praises

What other splendour outshines the sun

What other majesty rules with justice

Only a Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing

Who else would offer His only Son

Who else invites me to call Him Father

Only a Holy God

(Chorus)

Come and behold Him

The One and the Only

Cry out, sing holy

Forever a Holy God

Words and Music: Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson,

Dustin Smith, Rich Thompson

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 in and through Your Son, You will restore this broken world to a place of glory. We long for the day when we and our world will be set free from the devastating effects of the fall. Yet, Lord, we confess our sinful response to the trials and discomforts of our lives. Rather than trusting You in the midst of our groaning, we have often resented You and grasped for things that falsely promise escape and comfort. We pray that You would have mercy on us through Jesus' death and resurrection, and enable us by Your Spirit to become a people who hope in You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

—2 Corinthians 5:17-18 ESV

Hymn of Response | How Long?

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

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way -
How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How
long?

*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the
sky
Do we wait in vain? Jesus, give us hope
again!*

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?

How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the
thorns - How long?
(Chorus)

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the
race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our
legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses!
How long?
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Isaac Wardell

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 Offering

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God. You may give online at www.trinitypresfw.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.

The Reading of the Word

Romans 8:18-30

God speaks to us through His Word.

8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

The Greatest Chapter
"From Groaning to Glory"

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 | In Feast or Fallow

When the fields are dry, and the winter is
long
Blessed are the meek, the hungry, the poor
When my soul is downcast, and my voice
has no song
For mercy, for comfort, I wait on the Lord

*In the harvest feast or the fallow ground,
My certain hope is in Jesus found
My lot, my cup, my portion sure
Whatever comes, we shall endure
Whatever comes, we shall endure*

On a cross of wood, His blood was
outpoured
He rose from the ground, like a bird to the
sky
Bringing peace to our violence, and
crushing death's door
Our Maker incarnate, our God Who
provides.
(Chorus)

When the earth beneath me crumbles and
quakes
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head
Without His hand to guide me, my shield
and my strength

In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Sandra McCracken

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | This is My Father's World

We respond in faith and song.

This is my Father's world, and to my
listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the
music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the
thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their
carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare
their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all

that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er
forget
That though the wrong seems oft so
strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not
done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock; Music: Traditional
English Melody

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.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

—Romans 15:13 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

Women's Summer Study

Ladies! Mark your calendars and invite your neighbors to join our summer study, "June with the Gentle Shepherd." Each Wednesday night in June, at 7pm, we will meet in backyards to hear from one of our Trinity women about how Jesus has been a Good Shepherd to her. Addresses will be announced in our weekly emails. Need a great book to read this summer? Order *Gentle & Lowly* by Dane Ortlund and read along with us!

TrinityKids Re-Opening Older Class

Beginning next Sunday, May 9, there will be two classes for TrinityKids: 4's/5's/Kinder and 1st and 2nd graders. Please register your children when you RSVP for worship.

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

TrinityKids Re-Opening Older Class

Beginning next Sunday, May 9, there will be two classes for TrinityKids: 4's/5's/Kinder and 1st and 2nd graders. Please register your children when you RSVP for worship.