

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

Words for Reflection

I learned the first rule of repentance: that repentance requires greater intimacy with God than with our sin. How much greater? About the size of a mustard seed. Repentance requires that we draw near to Jesus, no matter what. And sometimes we all have to crawl there on our hands and knees. Repentance is an intimate affair. And for many of us, intimacy with anything is a terrifying prospect.

- Rosaria Butterfield

Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of your God, and as our knowledge grows at these three points so our practice of repentance has to be enlarged.

- J. I. Packer

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

- Westminster Shorter Catechism #87

The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.

- Tim Keller

Order of Worship

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
— September 17, 2023 —

The LORD Calls Us

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

The Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace

-Luke 1:68-69, 72, 79 ESV

Hymn of Praise | And Can It Be?

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.

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain!
For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?

Amazing love! How can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me! Amazing love! How can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!

He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace! Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race. 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me! (Chorus)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
(Chorus)

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.
(Chorus)

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Scott Roley

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.

The LORD Cleanses Us

God cleanses and restores us through Jesus' death and resurrection. We fight the temptation to hide our sin and instead acknowledge it openly to God, but we do so in light of the grace that is ours in Jesus.

Confession of Sin

Most Merciful God,

We thank You that while we were dead in our trespasses and sins, You made us alive together with Christ. Yet we confess our reluctance to admit our need of Your grace. We would rather put forward the image of competence and self-sufficiency than admit our utter helplessness apart from You. We pray that by Your Spirit, You would enable us to turn from our sin and receive the forgiveness that Jesus alone can provide. We pray in his name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

—Joel 2:12-13 ESV

Hymn of Response I Come Ye Souls, by Sin Afflicted

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

Come ye souls, by sin afflicted,
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted,
Through the cross, behold the crown;
Look to Jesus; Look to Jesus;
Mercy flows through Him alone.

Take His easy yoke and wear it; Love will make your obedience sweet; Christ will give you strength to bear it, While His grace shall guide your feet Safe to glory, Safe to glory, Where His ransomed captives meet.

Blessed are the eyes that see Him,
Blest the ears that hear His voice;
Blessed are the souls that trust Him,
And in Him alone rejoice;
His commandments, His commandments, His commandments
Then become their happy choice.

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,
Light to newly opened eyes,
Like full springs in deserts dreary,
Is the rest the cross supplies;
All who taste it, All who taste it, All who taste it
Shall to rest immortal rise.

Look to Jesus; look to Jesus; look to Jesus Mercy flows through Him alone.

Words: Joseph Swain (alt Twit); Music: Kevin Twit

Confession of Faith | The Nicene Creed

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

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven. and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man: and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried: and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father: and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead:

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The LORD Converses with Us

God speaks to us by His Word, and we respond with prayer, gratitude, and offerings.

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

God speaks to us by His Word.

40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

The Offering

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God.

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

Luke 3:1-20

God speaks to us by His Word.

3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.""

7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

10 And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" 11 And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false

accusation, and be content with your wages."

15 As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, 16 John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

18 So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, 20 added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

Good News for Everyone: The Gospel According to Luke "Preparing the Way"

Sermon Notes	

The LORD Communes with Us

God invites us to feast with Him at His Table.

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: We serve wine during communion. If you'd prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please indicate by pointing at the tray.

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

Jesus, Cast a Look on Me Jesus, cast a look on me, Give me sweet simplicity Make me poor and keep me low, Seeking only Thee to know

All that feeds my busy pride, Cast it evermore aside Bid my will to Thine submit, Lay me humbly at Thy feet.

Make me like a little child,
Of my strength and wisdom spoiled
Seeing only in Thy light,
Walking only in Thy might.

Leaning on Thy loving breast, Where a weary soul can rest Feeling well the peace of God, Flowing from His precious blood.

> In this posture let me live, And hosannas daily give In this temper let me die, And hosannas ever cry!

Words: John Berridge; Music: Matthew Perryman Jones

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 makes 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

Life at Trinity

The LORD Commissions Us

God blesses us and sends us out to be a part of His mission to Fort Worth & the world.

Departing Hymn | This Is My Father's World

We respond in faith and song.

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

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.

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

Homelessness 101

Please join us Thursday, September 21, 7-8:30pm at Connell. We will hear from Tara Perez, the City of Fort Worth Directions Home Manager, and Lauren King, Exec. Director, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition. Come learn about the scope of homelessness in Fort Worth, how the city and partner organizations respond, and how Trinity can help.

TCU RUF 25th Anniversary

We will soon celebrate TCU RUF's 25th anniversary! Click the QR code below for more details and to sign up; we'd love to see you at this special reunion night full of food (from Joe T. Garcia's!), drink, friendship, and reminiscing, on Sep 22nd in Fort Worth. Ryan Anderson, Rob Hamby, and Leigh Anne Salter will all be there, along with other current and former staff, students, and friends of the ministry.



Stand With DASH

Celebrate God's faithfulness at the annual DASH benefit for the asylum seeker in Fort Worth. September 28, 6-8pm at Heritage Church of Christ. Details and registration here: dashnetwork.net/events.

Women's Fall Bible Study

Our fall study is, "Strange Times, Strange Salvation: A Study on the Book of Judges." The morning study meets on Thursday mornings 9:30-10:50 (coffee at 9:15) at Connell in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare

is provided. The evening study meets at Becky Burt's house (address will be provided once you register) on Wednesday nights 7-8:30. Contact Susan Tyner (susan@trinitypresfw.org) for more information.

Men's Fall Bible Study

Men, join us as we study the book of Judges this fall! Register in the app for one of our two options; morning or lunch. The study has two meeting options available. You can either come to the Wednesday morning study (630am - 730am) located at the church office (3750 S. University Dr, Suite 101) or the Thursday lunch study (12 - 1pm) located at Walt Jones's office (Chase Bank Building, 420 Throckmorton Street, Suite 1150 [11th Floor] 76102). We will complete our study on November 8/9.

Young Adult Dinners

Trinity Young Adults is a group for post-undergrad, in grad school, career, single, or young marrieds. Come join us after church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays after worship. Today we will eat at Dutch's. Details about dinners and other events are in the Church Center app or contact Rachel (<u>rachelkuchem@gmail.com</u>) or Jeff (<u>jeffrey.bryant14@gmail.com</u>).

Building Tours

Please pop into the new building anytime from 10am – 12pm on Sunday, October 1 for a tour to see the work that has been done!

Friday Morning Prayer

Join us at the church office (3750 S. University, 76109, Suite 101) on Friday mornings at 8am for prayer. Anyone is welcome!

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, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say parts of our worship service every week in order to help our non-reading children to participate, and we have children's bulletins available in the back. There are also ages, stages, and times when it might not be best for your children to be in worship. We 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. We also have a nursing mothers' room available across from the library if you need to nurse or change a diaper! All nursery volunteers have been through both background checks and Ministry Safe training. 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. He calls us to worship, and then we respond and move through the different elements of the service. We have both spontaneous, personal prayers as well as ancient, printed prayers. Please look over the service beforehand to see what we will hear and say along the way.

Our New Building

We are so excited and grateful for our new building at 207 W. Broadway in the Near Southside! We are in process of renovating and hope to move in during 2023. We will continue to worship at 4pm at Connell until then. Please continue to pray for all of the work being done! Check Church Center for periodic updates and photos.

Welcome Notepads

At some point during service, a welcome pad will be passed down your row. We would love for you to fill it out and pass it to the person on your right, so that we will have record of your visit. We promise we won't spam you.

Interested in Helping with Music?

We are always looking to add to our great team of musicians. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Wade Jewett (jewettwade@gmail.com).

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.

Community Groups

Our Community Groups are essential to our life at Trinity. Jesus never intended for the Christian life to be lived alone. Community Groups meet weekly in homes throughout the city on various nights. If you'd like more information or you'd like to visit a group, please contact Andy (andy@trinitypresfw.org).

Church Contact Information

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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 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100754, Fort Worth, TX 76185

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Web: <u>www.trinitypresfw.org</u> 682.703.2120

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