



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Trinity Sunday

May 30, 2021

9:00am

“The wind blows where it chooses...”—John 3:8

Prior to the service, you are invited to prepare yourself for worship. Some people prefer to meditate or pray, while others may chat quietly with their fellow-worshippers as a way to connect and focus. As the prelude begins, please prepare for worship in quiet attentiveness.

Prelude

Anthem
From the musical Chess

Welcome

Our worship leaders draw our attention forward and upward.

*Call to Worship Psalm 29:1-4

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God’s name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

We focus our attention first on God’s Glory and offer our praise in word and song.

*Opening Prayer

O God of wind and fire, of birth and new birth, we bless your name.

Eternal God, you come to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, giving us the gift of your presence in our lives and our hearts. You are constantly with us, surrounding us, embracing us, whispering the secrets of your creation. Breathe upon us today.

Bring us back to life, and back to you. Amen.

*Hymn #4

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Reflecting on God's Glory makes us aware of our common sinfulness and need for forgiveness.

*This honesty before God and each other opens our hearts
to receive God's forgiveness, which we celebrate with word and song.*

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness**

When we consider all that you have given us, Triune God, we recognize how little we have given in return.

You have chosen us to be part of your eternal family, the church, and yet we grumble because the church is not what we wish it to be. You have called us to be a part of your eternal mystery, to experience your inexpressible care, yet we grumble because to enter into your life always changes our lives. Stir up in us a fresh awareness, that we might more perfectly love you in order to more faithfully serve you all our days. Amen.

It is in learning to say "I am sorry" that we learn to change.

It is in changing that we find new life and hope.

Let us then turn away from sin and run to God today,
as we proclaim good news for everyone:

In Jesus Christ, we all are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

Response

Meineke

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*Forgiven and restored, we give of what God has given us in time, talents, and treasure,
and we pray together as an active part of our worship and witness.*

Ministry Updates

(Tithes and Offerings may be placed in offering basket in narthex before or after service)

Receiving of a New Member

Michelle Eisenhower

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Scriptures hold a central place in our worship, and so are read early and often.

*The music and messages are designed to help interpret the Scriptures
and help us to apply them to our daily living.*

Prayer for Illumination

As Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all Life, you hold the mystery of life, death, and everything in between. Open these pages, the mouths who read, ears who hear, minds who understand, and the hearts who surrender. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

At this time, children are invited to meet Ms. Sara for story time in Fellowship Hall.

They will return to their families after the sermon.

Special Music

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

Recorded in May, 2019

arr. Carlton Young

Sermon

"Why is Christianity so Hard?"

*Once we hear God's Word, we want to respond in word and in deed,
so we say and sing what we believe.*

*Affirmation of Faith

Confession of Belhar

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.... (10.1-3)

*Hymn #340

This Is My Song

*We are sent into the world to bear witness to God's glory and love,
knowing that God has gone ahead of us to prepare the way.
Worship ends on this hopeful note and continues in all we do and become.*

*Blessing and Response

Postlude

Postlude in D
Christian H. Rinck

*You are invited to stand as you desire.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Ann Marie Ellis, guest organist; Michael Spaziani, baritone. Our Greeters are Barbara Lade and Vicki Gansner.

About Today's Service – Trinity Sunday is the Sunday after Pentecost, when we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity, three in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. While Christians throughout the ages have sought to explain it, they have agreed to affirm this truth in creed and experience.

Prayer for Today – Dear God, today we are celebrating your Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I do know beyond even a shadow of doubt that you love me, and that you have claimed me for your own, and that you have called me to be a part of this church, a part of your eternal family. Help me to listen and learn a little more. Amen.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Frank and Kathleen Skomorucha and family in the death of Frank's father.

Addressing Pandemic Anxiety – Over the past year we have been forced to adjust to massive changes in our lives. Fear of becoming infected or infecting others shifted the way that we relate to one another. Now that our communities are beginning to re-open, many of us are finding that returning to social obligations, church, and other spheres is far more complicated than simply responding to the newest CDC guidelines. If a space to speak together about these concerns would be helpful, please join Dr. Tracy Burke and Pastor Caroline Cupp on Thursday, June 3 at 10am. Email Caroline for the Zoom link at ccupp@firstpreswc.com.

Helping Hands: Moving Assistance – A neighbor with a disability is moving from Parkesburg to Coatesville on June 1 and is in need of assistance. For more information on how to help, contact Emily McClure at e.mclure@friendsassoc.org.

2021 Contributions - Current contributions as of 5/26/21 are \$440,962 out of \$1,047,133 budgeted.