



AUGUST 23, 2020

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING PRAYER:

Loving God,
call us together as your people;
transform us with your love.
Transform our hearts,
that we may love generously.
Transform our eyes,
that we may see your grace.
Transform our hands,
that we may serve others.
Transform our spirits,
that we may be the body of Christ,
gathered to worship
and sent out to serve. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. - Albert Einstein
- We are living in an historic moment. We are each called to take part in a great transformation. Our survival as a species is threatened by global warming, economic meltdown, and an ever-increasing gap between rich and poor. Yet these threats offer an opportunity to awaken as an interconnected and beloved community. – Desmond Tutu

PRAISE SONG: Make Me an Instrument (music at end of bulletin)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: In a time of bitterness and pain,

All: God raised up Moses and changed the lives of a people.

One: From the shadow of death,

All: God raised up Jesus and changed the lives of all people.

One: In every time, and in every place,

All: God raises up witnesses, people whose lives are changed forever.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

Merciful God, we confess how easy it is for us to begin to adopt the attitudes and actions of the world around us; to let our lives be shaped by contemporary culture rather than by Your call.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear and forgive.**

We confess how often we think of our own interests first - more concerned with our own status and well-being than with the well-being of others.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear and forgive.**

We confess that we have not always treated one another as valued members of Your Body, the Church; that we have allowed intolerance and resentment to tear us apart.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear and forgive.**

We confess that we do not always acknowledge You as Lord, trusting in our own abilities and following our own goals rather than submitting ourselves to Your will and Your call.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear and forgive.**

Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, transform us. Change us from the inside out, so that our words and our lives would bring honor and glory to You, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing/Assurance of Pardon:

One: It's too easy to think like the world, that money will give us happiness or that power will earn us grace. But Paul reminds us that if we think like Christ, and live like servants, we will find true freedom.

All: Not only our minds, but our hearts and spirits will be transformed into the likeness of Christ, enabling us to be faithful disciples. Thanks be to God. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: ***We Are One Body*** (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSONS:

Exodus 1:16-20

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery

stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸ Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

¹⁹ The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

²⁰ So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

Romans 12:1-8 (The Message)

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

I’m speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it’s important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what God does for us, not by what we are and what we do for God.

In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we’re talking about is Christ’s body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn’t amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ’s body, let’s just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren’t.

If you preach, just preach God’s Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don’t take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don’t get bossy; if you’re put in charge, don’t manipulate; if you’re called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don’t let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

Matthew 16:13-18

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the

Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah,^[a] the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter,^[b] and on this rock^[c] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

MESSAGE: *“Who Are You?”*

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Go Light Your World*

THE PRAYERS:

We praise you, O God, for you have created us in your own image. You have gifted us with your own Spirit. You have taught us how to live in harmony with you and with all others.

We give you thanks for your gracious love that accepts us as we are. We thank you for the wonderful diversity in our world and in the human race. We thank you for the stories of scripture that remind us we are all your creators, we are all your children.

We pray for those who are harmed by the hatred and rejection of others. We pray for those whose lives are so filled with hate that they feel the need to lash out at others. We pray for the redemption of all your children, including ourselves, that we may live in your peaceable kingdom.

(Other intercessions are offered.)

All these things we ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together, saying:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT: *Exodus 1–2, Psalm 127*

Resist the powers that use people.

Hear the cries of the weak.

Dare to work for justice.

Know that God—Source, Word, and Spirit— is your help, will keep you safe and will bring you new life.

You are blessed by God and sent to serve. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: *With Kindness* (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attender. Occasional attender. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.**

COME *as you are.*

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

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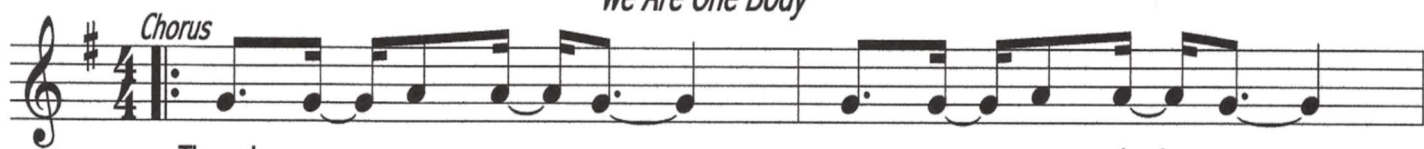
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Make Me an Instrument

Make me an in - stru - ment of your love. Let me be a
chan - nel from a - bove. Make me an in - stru - ment of your love, *Fine*
an in - stru - ment of your love.
When a friend is in need of an op - en heart,
When some - one is hun - gry, when some - one is cold,
If some - one should won - der is God still a - live,
let me be there, oh let me be there, When a
let me be there, oh let me be there, When
let me be there, oh let me be there, If
friend is lost with no - where to go, let me be there.
some - one needs help to car - ry their load, let me be there.
some - one should won - der does God real - ly care, let me be there.

We Are One Body

Chorus



Though we are man - y,___ we are one bod - y,___



we are one bod - y in Christ;___ Though we are man - y,___



we are one bod - y,___ we are one bod - y in Christ.___

Song Ending

Verse



One faith___ in the Lord Je - sus Christ,___



bind - ing us to - geth - er in one cause; One hope___ in the



one God, one Fa - ther o - ver all.

Repeat chorus

With Kindness

Christ has no bod - y here but ours. No hands, no feet here on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes through which he looks on this world with kindness. Ours are the hands through which he works. Ours are the feet on which he moves. Ours the voices through which he speaks to this world with kindness. Through our touch, our smile, our list'ning ear, embodied in us, Je - sus is liv - ing here. Let us go, now, inspired in - to this world with kindness.

The musical score is written on ten staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.