



THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

GATHERING PRAYER:

Begin this Sunday's worship with a time of silence. Our lives are far noisier than wind, fire, or earthquake. In a great paradox, God speaks to us in sheer silence. Use this chance to listen as you pray.

O God, so often we have tried to live our lives in our own strength and by our worldly wisdom only to find ourselves broken and exhausted. Too often, God, we have even allowed our faith to drift from You to the things of this world for our security. Forgive us, Lord. Lead us to grow in Your wisdom and to lean on Your strength daily. In Christ we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

- ❖ The will of God will never take you to where the grace of God will not protect you.
- original author unknown
- ❖ You're safe not because of the absence of danger, but because of the presence of God.
- original author unknown

PRAISE SONG: *Light Shines in the Darkness (music at end of bulletin)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Praise the Lord!

All: For it is good to praise our God

One: Who is gracious and deserves our praise.

All: The Lord builds up the people;

One: Heals the brokenhearted,

All: Binds up our wounds.

One: The Lord lifts up the downtrodden,

All: And casts the wicked down to the ground.

One: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;

All: For God takes pleasure in those who fear him,

One: And who hope in his steadfast love.

All: Amen.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

Lord, for grumbling about small inconveniences -- we beg forgiveness. For allowing an unexpected circumstance, a change in plans, an unplanned obstacle, a little bump in the road, or small detour to steal our joy -- we seek your pardon. Teach us, Lord, to have such a large view of life that nothing can obscure our view of you and your love. Nothing; not a pandemic, not politics, not a financial crisis; not a lost job; not a difficult boss; not a bad decision; not a failed venture, not the ending of a relationship; ... nothing, Lord, for in the end, your love overcomes all. Amen.

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: Cast Out, O Christ (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSONS:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening?
Haven't you heard these stories all your life? Don't you understand the foundation of all things?

God sits high above the round ball of earth. The people look like mere ants.
He stretches out the skies like a canvas— yes, like a tent canvas to live under.
He ignores what all the princes say and do. The rulers of the earth count for nothing.
Princes and rulers don't amount to much. Like seeds barely rooted, just sprouted, They shrivel when God blows on them. Like flecks of chaff, they're gone with the wind.

“So—who is like me? Who holds a candle to me?” says The Holy.

Look at the night skies: Who do you think made all this?

Who marches this army of stars out each night, counts them off, calls each by name—so magnificent! so powerful!—and never overlooks a single one?

Why would you ever complain, O Jacob, or, whine, Israel, saying,
“GOD has lost track of me. He doesn't care what happens to me”?

Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening? GOD doesn't come and go.
God *lasts*. God's the Creator of all you can see or imagine. God doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath. And God knows *everything*, inside and out.

God energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts.

For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall.

But those who wait upon GOD get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind.

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. Jesus came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

MESSAGE: *"Safe in the Light"*

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *You Already Know*

THE PRAYERS

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:

Leader: May the strength of God guide you this day,
and may God's power preserve you.
May the wisdom of God instruct you;
the eye of God watch over you;
the ear of God hear you;
the word of God give sweetness to your speech;
the hand of God defend you;
and may you follow the way of God.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *All Through the Night (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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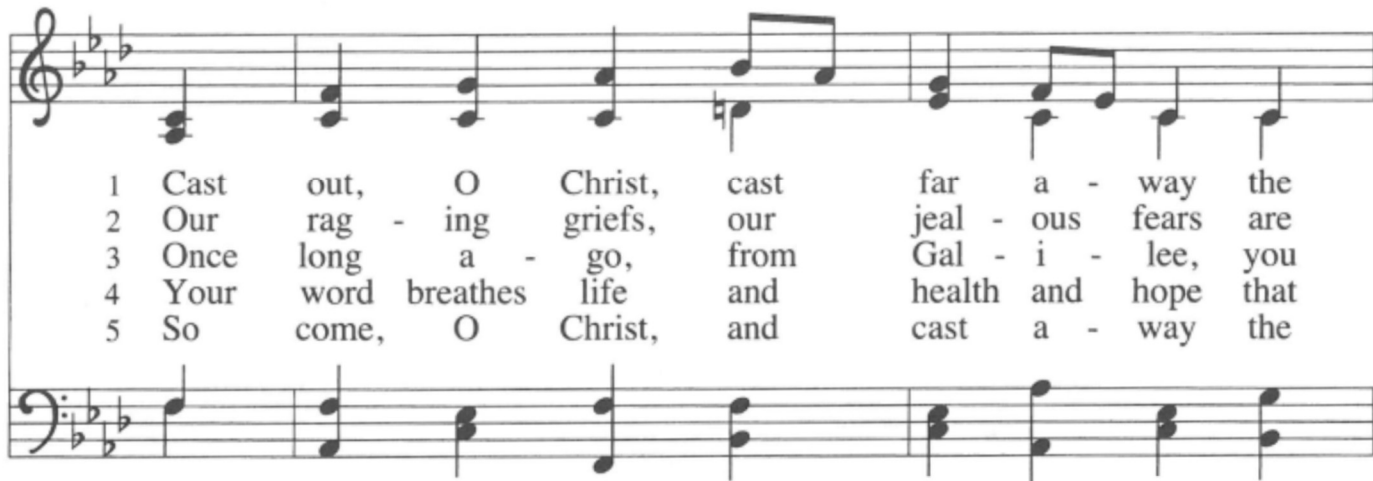
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Light Shines in the Darkness

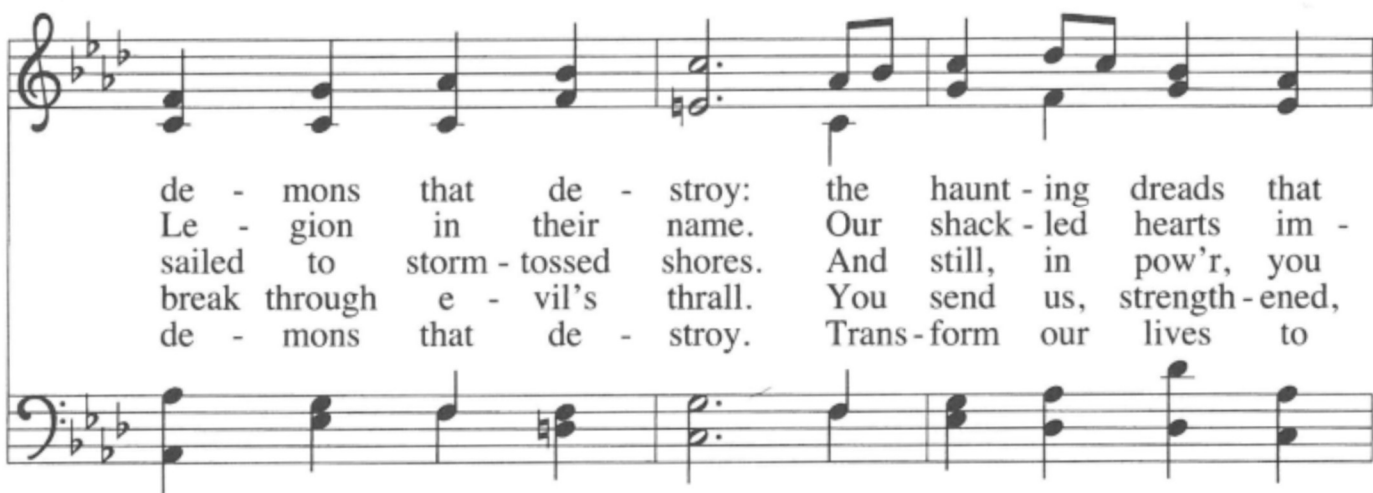
Oh the light shines in the dark - ness and the
light will not be o - ver - come. In this world
bro - ken and scat - tered the light will not be o - ver - come. *Last time end*
As our lives are turn - ing and our
Tears through - out cre - a - tion, torn a -
hearts are yearn - ing through the days of hurt - ing,
part re - la - tions, wounds a - cross the na - tions,
deep in the night still the flame burns bright.
hope may seem gone still the flame burns on.

Cast Out, O Christ

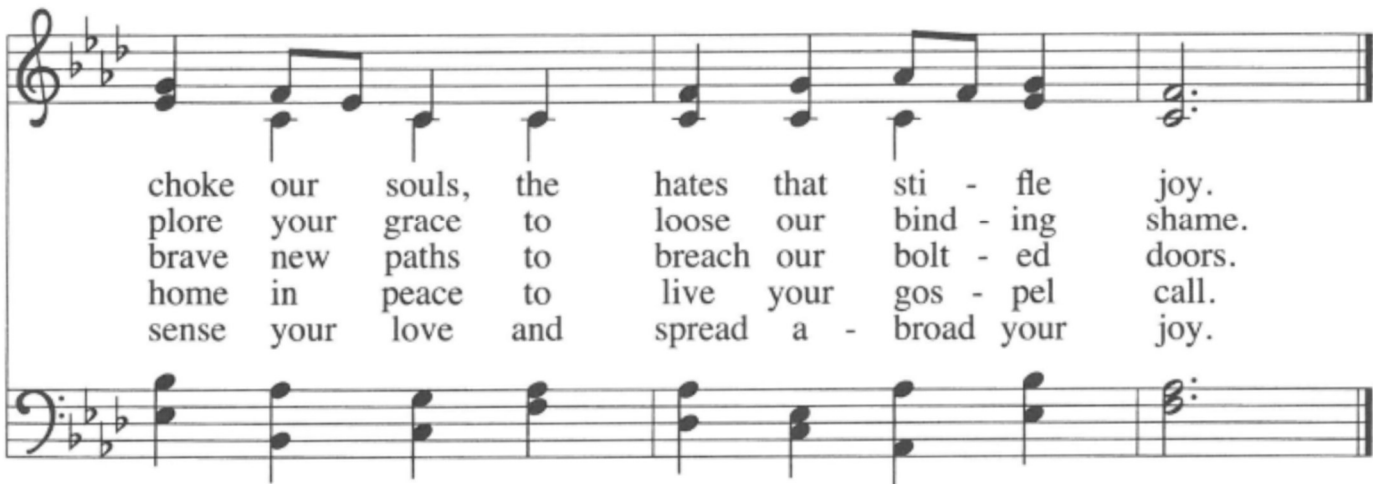
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1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that
5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the



de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you
break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,
de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to



choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

All Through the Night

1. Go, my friends, and hope de - fend you all through the night.
2. Walk the streets and bus - y high - ways all through the night.
3. Wash the feet of friend and strang - er all through the night.

May she peace and cour - age send you all through the night.
Trudge the dark and lone - ly by - ways all through the night.
Shel - ter in the time of dan - ger all through the night.

May she ev - er stand be - side you, in her lov - ing
Touch the sor - row and the sad - ness, dance with those who
In your lives is grace a - bound - ing. Love and light the

kind - ness hide you. Through the treach - 'rous dark - ness guide you
long for glad - ness. Be the com - fort in the mad - ness
night con - found - ing. In your souls the song is sound - ing

all through the night.
all through the night.
all through the night.

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