



He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. MATTHEW 28:6

APRIL 29-30, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

God, you invite all people into your presence. In our diversity, unify us in your message of good news: God loves, God redeems, God lives! Break into our hearts today; create in us perfect love as we glorify your name! Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.*
- Mother Teresa (Founder of Missionaries of Charity)
- ❖ *Communities are truly communities when they open to others, when they remain vulnerable and humble; when the members are growing in love, in compassion and in humility. Communities cease to be such when members close in upon themselves with the certitude that they alone have wisdom and truth and expect everyone to be like them and learn from them.*

The fundamental attitudes of true community, where there is true belonging, are openness, welcome, and listening to God, to the universe, to each other and to other communities. Community life is inspired by the universal and is open to the universal. It is based on forgiveness and openness to those who are different, to the poor and the weak. Sects put up walls and barriers out of fear, out of a need to prove themselves and to create a false security. Community is the breaking down of barriers to welcome difference.

- Jean Vanier (Catholic Priest and Theologian)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We come from many places to become one congregation.

People: With different names, faces, histories, we are still one in Christ.

Leader: Others also gather in Christ's name.

People: We share our faith with them.

All: Make us one, O God, through our risen Lord.

PRAISE SONG: For All (music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

Christ Jesus, you taught your followers to form community and to share all that they had with those in need. In such a way, you provided for everyone. We have assurance that you walk with us during times of trouble, you provide all good things; yet we often hoard what we have for fear that we will not have plenty. Our cups overflow in many ways, goodness and mercy have followed us; yet, we often hoard are afraid that people will abuse our goodness and mercy so we hide behind walls.

Teach us to tear down the walls of separation. Teach us to share in common those gifts you have given us - material, emotional and spiritual. Forgive us when we lose sight of the call to bring all people into the place of plenty and thanksgiving. May the Scriptures and our prayers transform our hearts every day, so that we keep the vision of new life together at the center of all we do.

We take time now to confess to you our own unwillingness to reach out beyond our walls:

(silence)

We are assured of your bountiful forgiveness, and we humbly thank you as you lead us on right paths. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *Let the Walls Fall Down*
(music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSONS: Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

1 Peter 2:19-25

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his

body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

THE GOSPEL:

John 10:1-10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from them because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

MESSAGE:

- Reverend Marilyn Miller

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Build a Longer Table, v. 1, 3, 4*
(music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

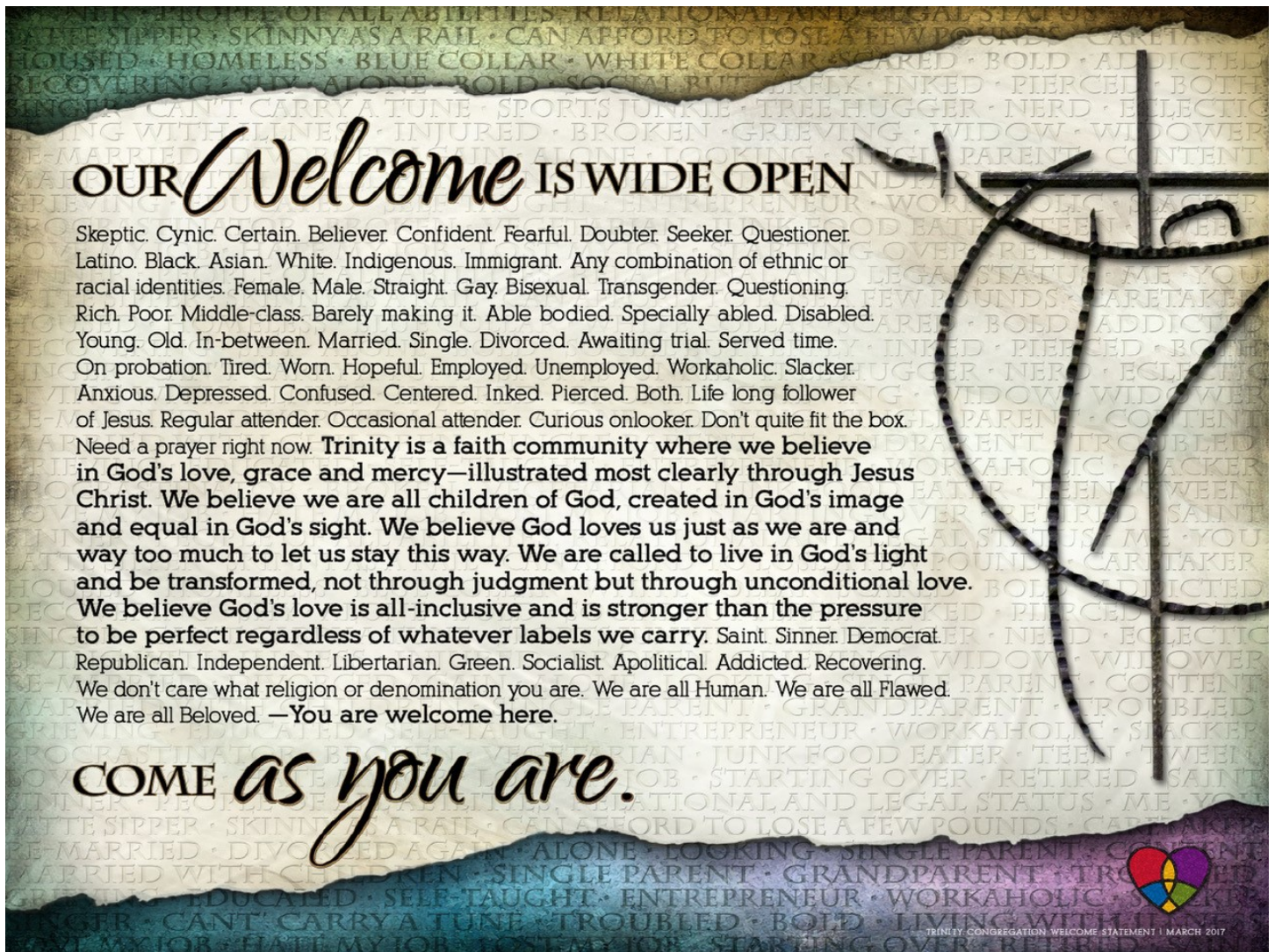
Leader: Go, with Jesus Christ as your Good Shepherd, guarding and guiding you. Let love come alive in you by the Spirit God has given us. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: *People’s Church, v. 1 & 3 (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 attendee. Occasional attendee. 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.*

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For All

Your love, your love has no bor - ders, Your love, your
 love has no walls. Your love, your love has no lim - its.
 You love the world. Your love is here for all. *Fine*

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|---------|------------------|
| 1. For all | who are wand - 'ring, | for all | who are weak, |
| 2. For all | who are strug - gling, | for all | who have dreams, |
| 3. For all | who have plen - ty, | for all | who have need, |
| 4. For all | who are suff - 'ring, | for all | who seek change, |

for all who seek shel - ter, for all who seek peace.
 for all who are cap - tive, for all who are free.
 for all who are doubt - ing, for all who be - lieve.
 for all who are sin - ners, for all who are saints.

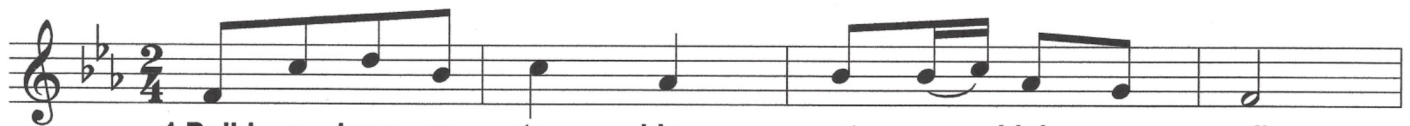
Let the Walls Fall Down

Let the walls fall down, — let the walls fall down, —
 — — — — — let the walls fall down; —
 By His love let the walls fall — down.

- | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-----|-----------|----|
| 1. One | by one, | we're drawn | to - geth - er, | one | by one, | to |
| 2. In | His love, | no walls | be - tween us, | in | His love, | a |

Je - sus' side. One in Him, we'll live for - ev - er,
 com - mon ground. Kneel - ing at the cross of Je - sus
 stran - gers He has rec - on - ciled.
 all our pride comes tum - bl'ing down. *Repeat Chorus.*

Build a Longer Table



1. Build a long-er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2. Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3. Build a broad er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4. When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

People's Church

1. Oh it's a worn - out church - with a bro - ken stee
3. You know a liv - ing church can make a Chris - tian ner
- ple;
- vous. it's filled with poor and home - less peo - ple.
It car - ries risk and leads to ser - vice,
Kids in trou - ble and the un - em - ployed - gath - er there
calls us all to get in - volved, to lose our com - fort

Chorus
for and hope and joy. Oh it's a peo - ple's church for
and live God's love.
folks in need. It's a peo - ple's church where the word meets deed.
It's a peo - ple's church for ev' - ry race. At a
1, 3 - Fine 2. *Bridge*
peo - ple's church come and see Je - sus' face. I'm
pray - in' for the poor and the rich to share the blood and
bod - y gifts. I'm pray - in' that in ev - 'ry place there's a
D.S.
peo - ple's church liv - ing out their faith. Oh it's a