



JULY 29-30, 2023

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

God of love, we are grateful for the love you have shown us in Christ and through other persons, for patience with our failings, for kindness in our weak moments, for praise when we have done our best, for forgiveness without counting the times, for those who go with us when the going gets rough, for those who trust us again after we have abused their trust. For all gifts of love, we thank you, and especially that your love for us is stronger than death. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *Intense love does not measure, it just gives.* - Mother Teresa
- ❖ *If you judge people, you have no time to love them.* - Mother Teresa
- ❖ *The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them.* - Thomas Merton

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We gather to hear of God's unconditional love;

People: We are each different and unique, yet we are all loved by God.

Leader: We gather to affirm that we are called to love one another with no strings attached;

People: We learn by Jesus' example to love all people everywhere.

Leader: We gather to affirm that each of us has gifts to offer;

People: We are called to see that each person is blessed with gifts for God's service.

All: Help us Lord to do what we cannot do alone.

PRAISE SONG: God We Gather as Your People (verses 1, 3, 4)
(music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

To love one another is the most difficult thing you have asked us to do, O Lord. It is difficult to love those who are close to us, it is difficult to love those who are opposed to us, it is difficult for us to love the one who needs something from us, and it is difficult to love those we don't even know.

And yet we hear the challenge, and we certainly see the example that you have given to us. Even as we follow you we fail you, and yet you love us. Even when we deliberately act contrary to your will, you love us. And we are always needy, and you love us.

Forgive us our hard hearts. Cultivate in us a willingness to love as we have been loved. Amen

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *In God's Eyes (music at end of bulletin)*

THE LESSONS:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

These are some of the beginning words of this letter, which the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in the Greek city of Corinth. He suggests that those who hold to knowledge as the primary source of life, common in Greek philosophy, or to a rule ridden life, popular among those from a Jewish background, encounter instead a stumbling block with a God, Jesus, who dies on a cross, one of the most despised ways to die. To some this is foolishness; but he tells them, this is the way of God.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’

1 Corinthians 13

Later in the same letter, the Apostle Paul pens these words about love, which prompts some to call this, “The Love Chapter”, often read at weddings. It is not a description of romantic or erotic love, but instead of how love of another, agape love, can be expressed. He also states faith, hope, and love are often experienced, but the greatest is love which enhances every person's life.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

THE GOSPEL:

Mark 9:33-41

As Mark tells the story of Jesus' life, this takes place at Capernaum, a city on the northern coast of the Sea of Galilee. His disciples had argued about who among them was greatest. Jesus suggests greatness comes in caring for or loving another person, including children, and that these deeds are greater than actions exhibiting great power.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.’ But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.’

MESSAGE: “No Strings Attached”

- Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: I Believe in That Love (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: With the promise of life before us, and the grace of God beside us, and the love of God within us, send us now, O Lord, out into the world to live lives of love—no strings attached. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: ***We are a Rainbow (verses 2, 3, 4)***
(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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God, We Gather as Your People

1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and

bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.

Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and sta - ture, may they

trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free. (sing v.2)
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few, may their faith in you re - new. (sing v.4)
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the
church doors o - pen wide. May there be room e - nough for
ev - 'ry-one in - side. For in God, there is a wel - come, in
God we all be - long. May that wel - come be our song.

In God's Eyes

Out - side is my win dow, right a -
(There) (I) am no bet - ter work - ing
cross the street there is some - one new liv - ing next to me, They
on Wall Street and a sis - ter who needs bread to eat. Now
am no worse than a drunk who's ly - ing in the dirt. Now
might look diff - 'rent, they might talk strange Do I
truth keeps call - ing we have fam' - ly ties we're
truth keeps cal - ing 'till we hear the cries, we're
real - ly care to know their name? (There) in God's eyes. in
all the same
all the same
God's eyes, there must be riv - ers of tears for all the pain
love has en - dured. In God's eyes, there must be moun - tains of hope to
keep send - ing ba - bies in - to our homes with
2 2nd time to Coda Fine Coda
God's eyes. (I) So quick to judge each oth - er,
so slow to love an - oth - er; oh, can our hearts ev - er see? (In) *D. S. al Fine*

We Are a Rainbow

1. We're the light of all the world; we are a
2. We are coat of man - y col - ors, sewn from
3. We are hope to still be - lieve _____ in to -
4. When we face the storms of life _____ we will

cit - y on a hill; we're a can - dle on a stand
man - y dif - f'rent threads, cov - 'ring all in warmth, in wel
morrow's be - ter day. We are peace in a world
nev - er be a - lone for our God will be with

pro - claim - ing light, We will not hide our lamp
- come and in grace. God said, "let there be light,"
that's torn a - part. We are joy that will last
us on the way. Hand in hand, side by side,

be - neath a bush - el an - y - more. We will
cre - at - ed ev - 'ry va - ried shade. In the
in all the strug - gles that we face. We are
we won't be fright - ened an - y - more as the

shine a ray of hope that's burn - ing bright. We
rain - bow, each of us can find a place. We
love that blooms and grown in ev - 'ry heart. We
mourn - ing night of tears breaks in - to day. We

are a rain - bow, sign of cov - e - nant and peace for the
flood of tears will fin - 'ly cease to be. Come shine your rain - bow,
splash your hues a - cross the sky. (Paint the world in col - ors
proud and bold and free.) Repeat (tag) last time.