



JULY 8-9, 2023

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of all people, we come this day as many people with many voices and passions and viewpoints. We are many and unique, yet we are all united in you. Through your word spoken today, renew in us the gift of your Spirit that we are one in the body of Christ, through the one baptism and the one holy table where we feast together. Transform the words we have heard so many times before and make them fresh for us today, that we may be reminded again of your abundant love and grace. Amen

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *If you judge people, you have no time to love them.* - Mother Teresa
- ❖ *We must learn to live together as siblings or perish as fools.* - Martin Luther King Jr.
- ❖ *So how do you measure the worth of a man?
In wealth or strength or size?
In how much he gained or how much he gave?
The answer will come
The answer will come to him who tries
To look at his life through Heaven's eyes*
- From the song *Heaven's Eyes* (Prince of Egypt)

PRAISE SONG: "God We Gather as Your People" (music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

Leader: When you molded creation in the beginning, God of righteousness, you named all that you made "good." Yet we have chosen repeatedly to see your world and others in it and call them "bad," "less than," "not good enough." We have not realized the depths of your love for us and so we have tried to keep you to ourselves instead of sharing the gifts that are yours.

Leader: We have let others go hungry.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have let people sleep under bridges and in their cars.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have suggested that health is a luxury rather than a basic human right.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have taken the resources of the land as though tomorrow and our children don't matter.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have waged wars when others didn't see things our way or when we wanted their land.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have traumatized soldiers by asking them to do unthinkable things.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have not listened to those brutalized by others who have power over them.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have not carried out our responsibilities as citizens to work for the good of all persons.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have walked away or shut out persons we deemed different from ourselves.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have not spoken up in situations where racism and where exclusion because of gender or sexual identity, or cognitive distinctiveness or physical difference were rampant.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have not been quiet and listened as someone tried to explain their feelings to us.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: We have not encouraged all persons to reach their fullest potential as your children.

All: Forgive us.

Leader: O God, this list makes us ill and we know it only touches the surface of our brokenness. It seems that we have taken your good creation and made it a mess. Yet you appear repeatedly with reminders of forgiveness, mercy, and grace. Even as we consider all the wrongs in the world, you call us again to work with you to right these wrongs- to share our food, to provide shelter and health care, to mediation and reconciliation, to listen and to speaking up. Yet it is clear, God of justice, that none of this brokenness can be mended without our acceptance of your forgiveness and fresh start. Redirect our energies and our actions. We give ourselves to you for healing and sending. In the name of Jesus

All: Amen.

Leader: God forgave these grave sins on the cross centuries ago and forgive them again today. Go, and with Jesus, do what you can for God's goodness in the world and walk in the ways of Jesus. You are forgiven.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *"Turn Our Hearts" (music at end of bulletin)*

THE LESSONS: Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67

This is from the first book of the Bible and the Old Testament with stories of creation and also of the beginning of God's chosen people, the Israelites. This story is about the servant of Abraham, the first patriarch, being sent to Abraham's home country to select a wife for Abraham's son, Isaac, and how the servant acknowledges the role of God in that process when Rebekah became the chosen one.

34 So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. 35The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. 36And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. 37My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; 38but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

42 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! 43I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' 44and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son."

45 'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." 46She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. 47Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. 48Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. 49Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.'

58And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' 59So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. 60And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.'

61Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

62 Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. 63Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. 64And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, 65and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. 66And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67Then Isaac brought her into his

mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Romans 7:15-25a

The Apostle Paul writing to the Christian believers in Rome laments about his dilemma, and maybe that of every human, namely, not being able to exhibit the behavior he and us may want sometimes. He uses the word "law" as if it is a life principle, but his final words may suggest that thanks to Jesus he, like us, is still accepted and loved.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

These words of Jesus suggest surprise at the reaction of many to what His ministry has been. He expresses some of this to His heavenly Father and includes what He has really come to do. Finally, Jesus still invites all to find comfort and strength for their lives through Him.

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

MESSAGE:

- Pastor Marilyn Miller

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: “Leftover People in Leftover Places”
(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: God has called us into covenant and graciously accepted us as we are and not as we should be. Go with God's blessing and extend that invitation into God's covenant to all you meet this week. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: "Heart of the People" (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.

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

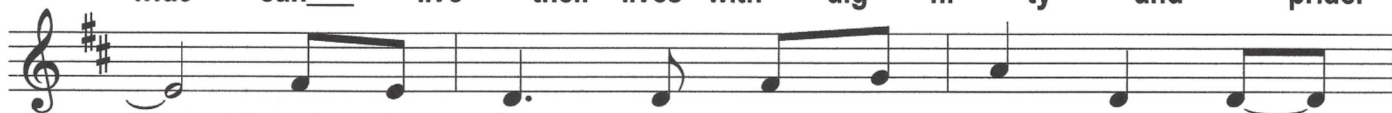
God, We Gather as Your People



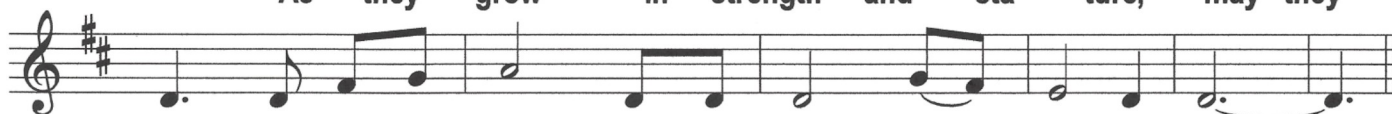
1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



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.



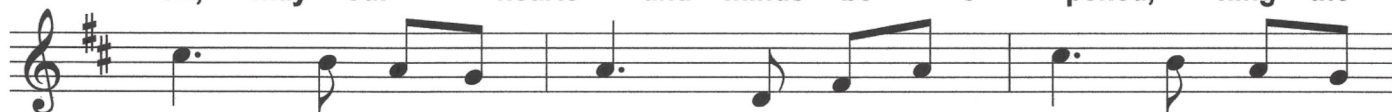
Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and sta - ture, may they



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.

Turn Our Hearts

Turn__ our__ hearts, turn__ our__ hearts__

1. Turn our hearts to one an - oth - er,
 2. Turn our hearts from pride and an - ger
 3. Turn the hearts of gen - er - a - tions
 4. As we all have been for - giv - en,

let to Your kind - ness - show;
 to Your ways of be - peace;
 that we must we for - one;
 so we may we for - give;

Where our words or deeds have wound - ed,
 For You died and shed in Your blood that
 Make us part all - ners have found the king - dom,
 As we all have ac - cep - tance,

let - for - give - ness flow.
 en - mi - ty may cease.
 'til Your work is done.
 so let us re - ceive.

Repeat to beginning after verses 1-3.

Turn__ our__ hearts,__ change__ our__ hearts;__

Join__ our__ hearts,__ turn__ our__ hearts__

Leftover People in Leftover Places

1. Left - o - ver peo - ple in left - o - ver plac - es,
2. Left - o - ver peo - ple, dis - pos - a - ble peo - ple,
3. Here is God's test - ing of true Eas - ter peo - ple;

trou - bled, dis - a - bled, the need - y and sad;
locked in - to pris - ons of drugs and des - pair;
spir - it - ed peo - ple with ser - vice to give;

scav - eng - ing crumbs from so - ci - e - ty's plen - ty;
pov - er - ty's chil - dren in pov - er - ty's spir - al,
tak - ing to heart the com - pas - sion of Je - sus;

sick to the soul when their life has gone bad.
locked out of how learn - ing and must earn - ing their share.
feel - ing how oth - ers must strug - gle to live.

These are the ones in God's up - side - down king - dom,
These are the ones in God's up - side - down king - dom;
We are a part of God's up - side - down king - dom.

deemed to be worth - y in and called to the feast,
these are the Christ in their shab - by dis - guise.
We know the heart of the gos - pel's de - mand;

soup - kitch - en peo - ple in - vit - ed to ban - quet,
These are the least and with the high - ly un - like - ly,
tak - ing our part with the left - o - ver peo - ple,

val - ued as a great - ly as roy - al in and priest.
giv - en as a hope - ly and as new light - al in their eyes.
wid - 'ning the space of the the lines in the sand.

Heart of the People

Hear the sounds of trag - e - dy, the tears are fall - ing on our
What are the rea - sons why we don't hear God call - ing in our
I be - lieve that just one heart can touch the face of hu - man
hearts. Is an - y - bod - y left with love in - side there?
hearts? Is an - y - bod - y left with love in - side there?
pain and the world will nev - er be the same
Suf - fer - ing has no name, but the peo - ple liv - ing it, they
Fright - ened or un - a - ware, too tired, just no time to
If one more tear is dried, if one less child has to
do. Is an - y - bod - y left with love in - side their
care? Is an - y - bod - y left with love in - side their
die, the world will nev - er be the same their a -
heart, their heart? I'm look - ing to the heart, the heart, the
heart, their heart?
gain, a - gain.
heart of the peo - ple. One heart on fire can change
the world. Oh, with the heart, the heart, the
heart of the peo - ple, we can change the world!

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