



SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2023

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

Wellspring of eternal life, we come to you this day having drunk deeply the waters of anxiety and despair. Bring to us your living water. Quench our thirsting souls, for we offer this prayer in Your Name. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ Jesus didn't invite us to become theologians or Bible scholars. He didn't call us to become more religious. He didn't ask us to join a club or a political action committee. He asked us to follow him. - Marc Alan Schelske
- ❖ No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. - Matthew 6:24

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: God's love, strong and true,

**People: _beckons us to walk on with hope in each step,
lures us home, to the places just right.**

Leader: God's love, everlasting and bold,

**People: _sustains us when fear closes in and worry overwhelms,
surprises us with glimpses of wonder and bursts of joy.**

Leader: God's love, gentle yet persistent,

**People: _graces us with rest in the midst of busyness,
hounds us to follow the good path.**

Leader: God's love, abundant and uplifting,

**People: _dances around us like waves on the shore,
dwells in us as a song steeped in praise.**

Leader: God's love, forever leading us to sing and pray, serve and praise.

PRAISE SONG : *“Children of God” (music at end of bulletin)*

CONFESSION:

On the shores of our lives, O God, you beckon us to follow you. You invite us to leave our comfortable boats and journey in mission with you. Jesus, your love for us is eternal and your care for us is persistent. Yet, how quickly we resist your guidance. We wander off, tempted by quick and flashy solutions. We hold back, cautiously seeing what others are choosing. We bleat our disagreements and criticisms to anyone who will listen. We rush ahead, confident that we know best. Strong and tender Shepherd, draw us close to you so your voice will echo in our hearts and your love will guide our steps. Call us again by name and lead us on the paths of love.

On the shores of our lives, you beckon and call – if we follow, we may not know success, but we will surely know great love and peace in the arms of God. Let us be courageous enough to say, "Here I am – send me!" Amen.

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: “God Are You Tired”
(music at end of bulletin)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 16:15-19; 21-26

Jesus 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. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[a] to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

MESSAGE: “Who are you following?”

- Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: “*Let Jesus Be Set Free*” (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

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: And now, may we follow Jesus on God's path of love and faithfulness that we may know God’s grace, mercy and peace forever. Amen.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: “*Send Us Out*” (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

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Children of God

Chil-dren of God, let's love one an - oth - er. Love is a gift, a bless
- ing of God. Love one an - oth - er, sis - ters and bro - thers.

1. -3.
Love is a gift of God.

4.
Love is a gift; love is a gift; love is a gift of God.

1. Let love be more than what we say.
2. Now per - fect love re - moves all fear.
3. Let us bear wit - ness to the Light,

Make it the way that we live each day. Oh, Oh,
By this we know God is al - ways near. Oh, Oh,
liv - ing in love, do - ing what is right. Oh, Oh,

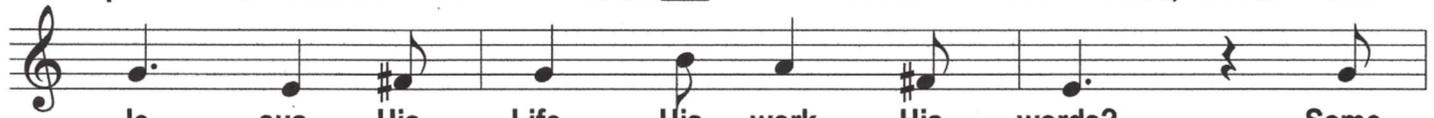
Let Jesus Be Set Free



1. In Christ - ian con - gre - ga - tions, His
 2. Who is this man called Je - sus? This
 3. Some serve a roy - al Je - sus made
 4. Let Je - sus be set free now from



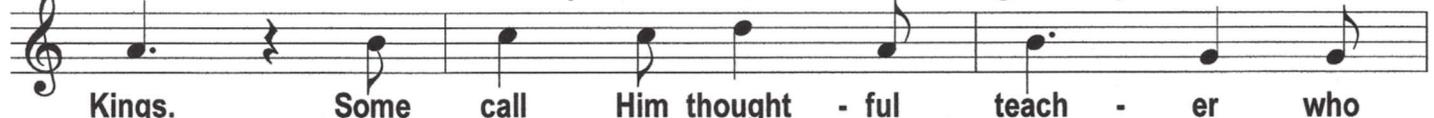
name is ev - er heard. What shall we do with
 is our on - going quest. Though much re - mains un -
 God in Christ - ian lore, who wears a crown of
 pris - ons church - es made. From doc - trines, creeds and



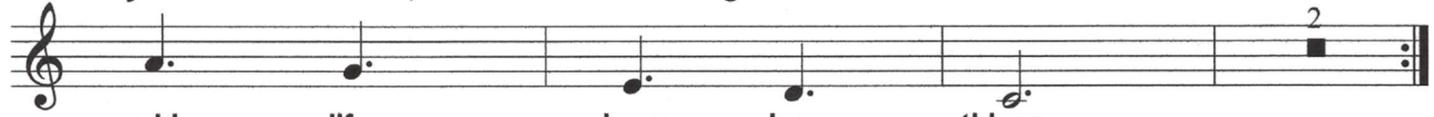
Je - sus, His Life, His work, His words? Some
 cer - tain, in seek - ing we are blessed. From
 glo - ry and reigns for - ev - er - more. Our
 an - thems in grand as - sem - blies played. From



call Him Lord and Sav - ior. Some call Him King of
 ev - 'ry new dis - cov - 'ry we will not run a -
 Je - sus is a hu - man, a pro - phet, teach - er,
 links to wealth and pow - er, a strange cap - ti - vi -



Kings. Some call Him thought - ful teach - er who
 way. Em - brac - ing each new learn - ing while
 friend ty. whose path we choose to fol - low un -
 ty. Come, let us go meet Je - sus whose



said life - chang - ing things.
 walk - ing in His way.
 til our dom sets His end.
 free - dom us free.

Send Us Out

1. We have been called by the Lord.
2. We who were bound by our shame,
We ruled have by been our saved fears by the with Word.
in.
Now Stand let and the de - Word clare be by re - stored.
name,
Now let the Gos - pel of be heard. Send us out to teach what
free - dom from all of our sin.
God has done. Send us out to reach ev' - ry
sin - gle one. Send us out. Send us out.
Teach what God has done. Reach ev' - ry sin - gle one.
Teach what God has done. Reach ev' - ry sin - gle one. Send us
out to teach what God has done. Send us out to reach ev' - ry
sin - gle one. Send us out. Send us out.