



SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2023

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.
- Neil Gaiman
- ❖ Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.
- Henri Nouwen
- ❖ Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living.
- Miriam Beard

PRAISE SONG: Always We Begin Again (music at end of bulletin)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The God of Creation calls us together.

People: We come into the presence of the One who created us.

Leader: God has not finished with us. There is more that we can be.

People: We offer ourselves to the One who takes us from glory into glory.

Leader: God is doing something new and it is us!

People: We give up our old ways to walk in the new path of God.

Leader: Into new places and experiences, along unfamiliar paths, into an unknown future, our Lord Jesus leads us.

People: We follow the Christ into God's new world.

ALL: God who is ever creating: Grant us the grace to offer our lives to you so that daily you may recreate us in your image. Amen.

AUDIOVISUAL SERVANT TRIP REFLECTION

THE CONFESSION PRAYER:

Leader: Let us stand before God in the truth of who we are.

People: We come before you, O God, in the honesty of who we have become. We open our lives to you not just because you already know who we are but because you love us in spite of our shortcomings and sins. We confess not only to beg for forgiveness but to be open to your renewal.

You created us to be your image. You placed us in creation to care for it with your love. We have failed on both counts. We have not reflected your self-giving love, but instead we have been selfish and self-centered. We have placed ourselves at the center of creation and we have destroyed much of your great work. We have looked at species that you created and called good as being a bother and worthless. We have hated and despised one another. We have fought and killed one another because we understood you in different ways. We are ashamed of what we have become and turn to you to be made anew into the image of your nurturing love. Send your Spirit upon us once more that we may truly be your image, your children. Amen.

Leader: God our loving Parent hears our cry and comes to accept us as we are and to make us into what we can become. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new. Amen.

THE RESPONSE: Cross of Christ (music at end of bulletin)

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:18-19

This is what GOD says,
the God who builds a road right through the ocean,
who carves a path through pounding waves,
The God who summons horses and chariots and armies—
they lie down and then can't get up;
they're snuffed out like so many candles:
"Forget about what's happened;
don't keep going over old history.
Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new.
It's bursting out! Don't you see it?
There it is! I'm making a road through the desert,
rivers in the badlands.

THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:14-20

Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 9:9-13; 16-17

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.".....

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are ruined, but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

THE MESSAGE: Student Reflections on the 2023 Servant Trip

MESSAGE RESPONSE: Shalom (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS:

Leader: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Creator God, we give you thanks for the world and for the many ways you create and sustain life. Breathe in us a spirit of awareness and action. Help us to look around at not only the beauty, but also the brokenness. Send us out as voices of promise and peace. Holy Spirit...

ALL: Ignite us with your love.

Leader: Loving God, We give you thanks for Jesus who calls us to follow his example of reckless love, enflame us to be your messengers of love, justice and peace. Holy Spirit,

ALL: Ignite us with your love

Leader: Healing God, We give you thanks for journeying with us in all seasons of life. Reveal yourself to all who are suffering, in body, mind and spirit. Bind up the wounds of your people, especially (*insert names here*). Move each us by your flame of mercy to serve all in need. Holy Spirit,

ALL: Ignite us with your love

Leader: Compassionate God, We give you thanks for loving without condition. Set us ablaze to initiate meaningful relationships with people who differ from us. Help us proclaim Christ in all that we say and do. Holy Spirit,

ALL: Ignite us with your love

Leader: By the power of the Spirit awaken us to your presence, to look around and see Christ in others, to turn around and see the world as you see it, to cross over into the unknown because we know that whatever we do, wherever we go, you are with us.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. 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: The One who made you has made you new. Now you are sent out to offer the world the opportunity be made alive through the power of God's Spirit who dwells in you. Go out with, and to BE, the blessing of God Almighty.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Ubuntu (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

L: Travel with Jesus into whatever tomorrow will bring. Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: 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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Always We Begin Again

1. Al - ways we be - gin a - gain, where we are and been be - fore.
2. Al - ways we be - gin a - gain, reach - ing out to those in pain,
3. Al - ways we be - gin a - gain, grow - ing ev - 'ry day more strong,

If we stum - ble and if we fall, we rise each day to soar.
show - ing grace and for - giv - ing those, who've hurt us time a - gain.
grate - ful for this com - mu - ni - ty, who with us walk a - long.

Al - ways we be - gin a - gain, liv - ing ful - ly in our time.
Al - ways we be - gin a - gain, with the Spir - it as our guide,
Al - ways we be - gin a - gain grate - ful for the seeds we sow,

Lis - ten - ing with our heart's own ear, hear - ing God's own rhyme.
bal - anc - ing in our work and prayer, hum - bly with - out praise.
wit - ness - ing God's own work at hand, blos - som - ing and grow.

Cross of Christ

Hearts on fire with hope and grief;
Some - one has a heav - y load,
Riv - ers filled with mys - ter - y

There is doubt and there's be - lief. Some will trust, a
stran - ger hurt a - long the road. Some will walk right
flow - ing for e - ter - ni - ty Ev - 'ry child of

bles - ed faith; oth - ers need to touch the wounds of grace.
by this place. Who will stop to be the hands of grace?
ev' - ry race, wel - come to - God's a - bound - ing grace.

Look - ing through the cross of Christ, we die and rise a - gain.

New cre - a - tion, gift of life, love that has no end.

Shalom

We will seek the sha - lom of the cit - y. We will
work with each oth - er hand in hand. We will
build and we will plant. We will pray and we will dream. Come, sha -
lom, to our cit - ies, to our land, to our land. We will
build and we will plant. We will pray and we will dream. Come, sha -
lom, to our cit - ies, to our land. *Fine* 2

1. Seek - ing change that will last down the a - ges, till our
2. We'll put hands to the work set be - fore us. All our
cit - ies will blos - som a - gain. Seek - ing hope in these
tal - ents and gifts we will bring. Man - y faiths, man - y
streets filled with weep - ing, health and heal - ing where now there is pain.
cul - tures to - geth - er till our streets with glad mu - sic will ring.

Seek - ing strengths that can build new to - mor - rows,
Come and join in this ho - ly en - deav - or.

for we know they are here to be found.
In this work there's a place for us all

We will love God with soul, mind, and bod - y,
bring - ing peace and good will to our cit - y;

to our neigh - bors in love we'll be bound!
this our dream, this our love pray'r, this our call!

Ubuntu
(pronounced "oom-BOON-too")

Chorus

U - bun- tul U - bun- tul
 shar- ing our vi - sions and dreams. U - bun- tul where
 jus- tice flows like a life giv - ing stream. The
 peo- ple to - geth- er join - ing our hearts and our
 hands to wel - come the strang - er and cher - ish the friend and to
 work for the peace of the land and so we do life!

Verses (echo song leader)

1. ... Sisters and brothers ... made for communion ... bound to each other ... one holy union
 ... Drawn by a vision ... drawn by desire ... drawn to the circle ... round God's holy fire,
2. ... Called now we follow ... Jesus our brother ... Who gathers his children ... just like a mother
 ... Tenderly holding ... this new creation ... Making and molding ... a new holy nation,
3. ... This is our vision ... life's in the sharing ... Holding back nothing ... dreaming and daring,
 ... To live this communion ... that breaks us and binds us
 ... Holds us and heals us ... frees us and finds us

Bridge

1. Made by God's po - wer to live as God's own;
 2. Marked by the wa - ter and giv - en our name,
 3. God, give us cour - age to do what we say,
 made to be seen and be heard and to be known!
 moved by God's Spir - it, re - vived by hol - y flame!
 Christ, give us strength for the liv - ing of these days.