



SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2023

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of faithfulness, God of hope, God of love, grant us this day a fresh vision of your presence in this world. Help us to see all the places you are at work. And having seen, O Lord, send us out into the world to share in that work with you. Meet with us today and guide our minds and our feet along the path of your choosing. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEEING JESUS AROUND US

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *The one who seeks to find God in everything is sure to find God in everything.*
-William Law (18th century priest and teacher)
- ❖ *Awe is what opens our finite minds to the infinite intelligence of God. Awe is what connects our limited hearts to the limitless love of the Lord. Awe is what helps us to see God's glory in the sea and the land and the moon and the sun.*
-Homiletics Preaching Magazine

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We are on a journey -

People: the journey of faith.

Leader: We walk the hard road -

People: the road of surprise.

Leader: We encounter Jesus -

People: the Bread of Life.

PRAISE SONG: God of Stars and Distant Planets (music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

Leader: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and deliver us from our sins. We encounter many roads in life, O guiding One, and at times, choose the road that looks most inviting to us. We often choose the path of least resistance or the trail of greatest personal return.

Forgive us when we fail to choose the road, the path where you are ready to meet us. (silence)

Forgive us when we turn a blind eye. (silence)

Forgive us when we choose what we know rather than facing fear. (silence)

Forgive us when we stop thinking for ourselves and listen to others who may guide us in directions different than you desire. (silence)

Grant us your grace, we pray.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and deliver us from our sins. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *Water and Dirt (verses 1, 3, 4)* ***(music at end of bulletin)***

THE LESSON:

Exodus 16:2-15

This reading is from the second book of the Bible which describes the departure or exit of the descendants of Jacob or Israel from their years of slavery in Egypt. It takes place in the wilderness after crossing the Red Sea. They complain about what they have to eat in this barren environment compared to what they had in Egypt. God hears their murmuring and provides in a unique way.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’

Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?’ And Moses said, ‘When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.’

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.”’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.”’

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.'

THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 20:1-16

Here is a story told by Jesus about the reign or rule of God in life. The main character is an employer who hires day laborers at different times. While all are compensated for their work, some complain payments were not done fairly for everyone.

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

MESSAGE: *"Why Can't We See God When God is Staring Us in the Face?"*
- Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: *The Earth and Everything*
(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: Even as you go forth, invite Jesus to stay with you. Break bread with him in all your activity this week. Know him in all your choices. For the risen One is with you today, tomorrow and all your days! Go in joy! **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: *Have You Thanked the Lord (vs. 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 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 of Stars and Distant Planets

1. God of stars and distant planets, the
2. Praise you God the cosmic artist for
3. Help us find with-in cre-a-tion, O

far - thest reach- es of night. Lead us home to re - dis -
daz - zling beau- ty com - plex. Vi - brant col - ors fill the
God of crea - tures and trees, a new way to grow with

cover - you, our Liv - ing Light. Ig - nite us with a
canvas; your im - age it re - flects. You step back from your
nature; sort our our wants and needs. Trans- form our way of

pas - sion to be your iv - ing sparks. May we
eas - el, call good what you first saw. May we
liv - ing, we pray in Je - sus' name. Turn our

ra - di - ate your splen - dor, rays of sun that shine in the
all for gen - er - a - tions live with such a - ware - ness and
vi - sion in - to ac - tion that your work of art be sus -

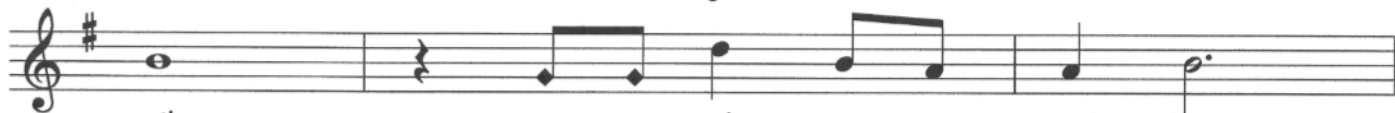
dark, rays of sun that shine in the dark.
awe, live with such a - ware - ness and awe.
tained, that your work of art be sus - tained.

Water and Dirt

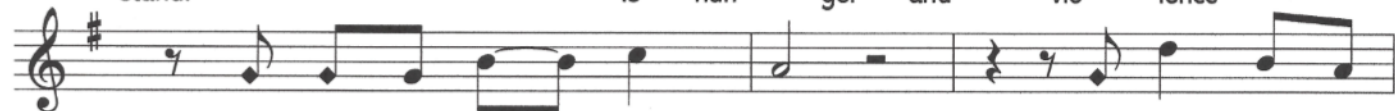
2



1. So man - y peo - ple liv - ing on this
2. I love my coun - try, a place to be
3. I love the sol - diers and their sa - cri
4. I read the good book but I don't un - der



earth; ev' - ry - one need - ing
free. I have been blessed here,
- fice but the death and de - struc - tion
- stand. ls hun - ger and vio - lence



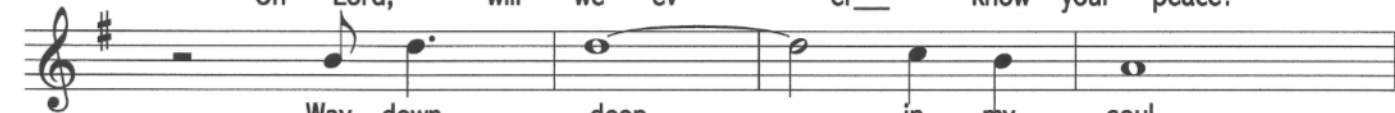
some wa - ter and dirt. How did we
with food and fam__ - i - ly. But how can a -
just nev - er seems right. How come the
a part of the plan? Oh won't you



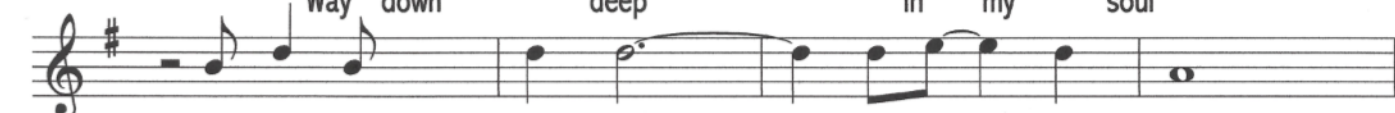
get here? What should we do?
bun - dance turn to thought - less__ waste?
lead - ers who get to de - cide
help us, turn our heart to__ see?



Six point eight bil - lion, plus me and you. (to verse 2)
while so man__ - y strug - gle for just a taste?
don't have to fight on__ the front lines?
Oh Lord, will we ev - er__ know your peace?



Way down deep in my soul



these are the ques - tions that won't let go.

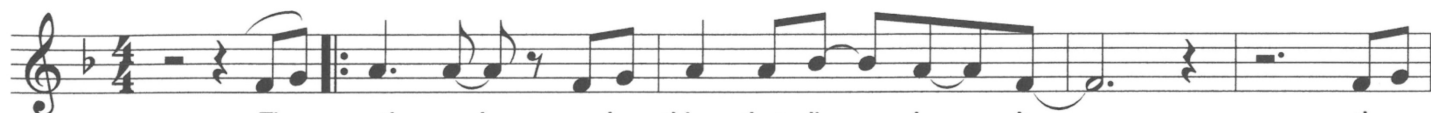


I don't have the an - swers so I say,



"Oh, Lord, can you show us an - oth - er way?"

The Earth and Everything



The earth and ev-'ry thing that lives in it, the



earth and ev-'ry thing that lives in it, be - longs to the Lord.



Who are those that trul - ly love their
God is pres - ent in our midst; lift your
If ev - 'ry - thing be - longs to God, all the



God faith - ful - ly? It is they with hearts and
hearts look up and see; We are his work, and through our
peo - ple, all the land; can we a - gree to work to -



hands who do God's will joy - ful - ly. The
lives God's love and glo - ry we will be. The
geth - er, one an - oth - er un - der - stand? That the

Have You Thanked the Lord? V. 1 & 3

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you praised God's name?
Don't you know that no to-mor-row is quite the same?
Have you thanked the Lord? Have you knelt in prayer
and re-joiced that rain or sun-shine, our God is there?
Hal - le - lu - jah! Thank the Lord for sun, sand, and sea,
Hal - le - lu - jah! Joy and peace the Sav - ior will bring.
ev' - ry star at night that shines for you and
Grace a - maz - ing! So we lift our voice and
me. Bless - ings so man - y come our way:
sing, grate - ful when clouds are bright or gray:
have you thanked the Lord to - day?
have you thanked the Lord to - day?