



NOVEMBER 11-12, 2023

24TH 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.

O God who is creating our world anew through us: Grant us the wisdom to see your day coming and to prepare by doing Your work; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *Look at everything as though you were seeing it for the first time or the last time. Then your time on earth will be filled with glory.* - Betty Smith
- ❖ *"You never know when it will be the last time you'll see your father, or kiss your wife, or play with your little brother, but there's always a last time. If you could remember every last time, you'd never stop grieving."*
- Jonathan Tropper, *This is Where I Leave You*
- ❖ *Value whatever you have. Never take any one for granted and enjoy every moment you have.*
Cherish the memories and always say what you need to say, even if it is scary at the time.
Live every day like it's your last and be sure to tell those you care about that you love them.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come to me and rest.

People: I replied, "Later, Lord. I'm too busy now."

Leader: I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live."

People: I replied, "Not now, Lord, I'm not thirsty."

Leader: Come and prepare for the Christ who is coming.

People: When will Christ appear?

Leader: No one knows. We just know we must be ready.

People: How do we get ready?

Leader: Love God and take care of each other.

People: Simple but difficult. With God's help we will love God and take care of all God's people.

PRAISE SONG: “Do Justice” (music at end of bulletin)

CONFESSION:

Leader: Let us confess to God and before one another our sins, and especially our failure to prepare for God’s coming reign.

People: We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We make all kinds of preparations for all kinds of events. Already the stores are calling us to prepare to spend lots of money on Christmas presents and decorations. We are urged to prepare for school, to prepare for work, to prepare for retirement. We try to heed all these calls, but we fail to hear you calling us to prepare for the reign you are bringing to our world. We prepare for the things that are passing away and fail to prepare for the eternal. Forgive us and open our ears and hearts that we might hear and heed your call to prepare for you. Amen.

Leader: God is working and preparing the world for God’s reign. God welcomes us as we return from our folly and prepare by being the children of God, the disciples of Jesus.

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: “Lord Help Me Keep My Life in Balance” (music at end of bulletin)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women^[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.^[b] 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those young women^[c] got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women^[d] came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.^[e]”

MESSAGE: “Preparing for what???”

- Pastor Cristy

MESSAGE RESPONSE: “God Are You Tired?” (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: God grant you wisdom to live each day as if it were your last, letting go of that which is unnecessary and taking hold of all that has been promised. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

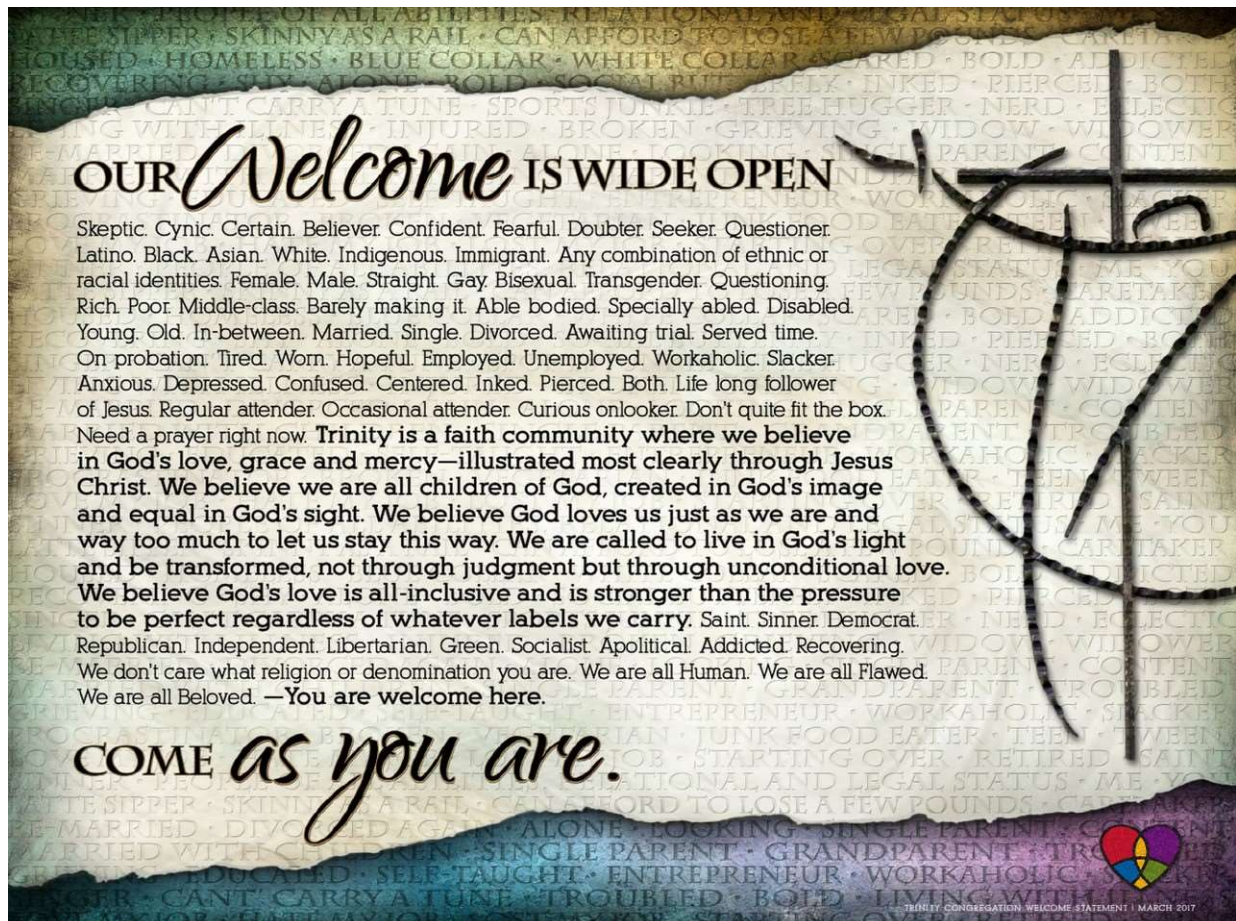
All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: “God Says It’s Time” (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.



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Do Justice

The musical score for 'Do Justice' is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score is divided into six systems, each with two staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

Rac - ing a - round chas - ing i - dols
Peo - ple bro - ken fall - ing piec - es
Dead - ly hun - ger des - p'rate cry - ing

un - ful - filled emp - ty ves - sels.
dig - ni - ty lost, lov - ing ceas - es
wound - ed liv - ing chil - dren dy - ing.

World on the edge, out of con - trol
Hope - less eyes lone - ly fa - ces
Nails in the flesh, pierc - ing fear,

will we sur - vive, God on - ly knows
yearn - ing hearts, hurt - ing plac - es.
why can't we see Christ hang - ing here?

Do jus - tice, love mer - cy,
walk hum - bly with our God, with our God.

Lord, Help Me Keep My Life in Balance

Lord, help me keep my life in bal - ance. Help me
fo - cus on you, Lord, in my work and my play.
Lord, help me keep my life in bal - ance.
You, Lord, are my hope, my strength for the day.

God Are You Tired

1. Oh God, are you tired of our emp - ty days, our
2. Oh God, are you tired of our bombs and guns, the
3. Oh God, are you tired of our end - less greed, our
cal - loused hearts, our bro - ken ways? How long till we wake up and
rea - sons we give to kill some - one? How long till we stand up and
mind - less chase of lux - u - ry? How long till we cry out that
heed your call? How long till we see that we don't know it all? May we
stop this race? How long till we see you in ev - er - y face?
some - thing's wrong? How long till our praise - is more than a song?
lose our - selves for you. May we lose our - selves for you. For the
least and the lost, may we take up our cross and hum - bly fol - low you.

God Says It's Time

3

It's time to cel - e - brate the Love of God, it's
time for us to get bu - sy. Get bu - sy with the things that mat - ter most like
jus - tice and com - pas - sion. It's time for us to take ac - tion as we
lis - ten for the voice of the Ho - ly One 'cause God is still speak - ing, and
God says it's time, yeah God is still speak - ing, and God says it's
Fine
time. It's time to put first things first, to set all dis - trac - tions a -
If God is still speak - ing now, then what is God say - ing to
side. us? It's time to get down to work, the work of the bo - dy of
The chan - ces are good some - how the mes - sage in - volves show - ing
Christ. love. There's heal - ing and lov - ing and reach - ing out that
love. There's jus - tice, and for - give - ness and wel - com - ing that
God wants to do, in and through the lives that we live and the
God want to do, in and through the choi - ces we make and the
love we give. So let's roll our sleeves up now be - cause it's
risks we take. So let's live that mes - sage now be - cause it's