



He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. MATTHEW 28:6

APRIL 27-28, 2024

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

God, you connect all people through your love. In our diversity, unify us in your message of good news: God loves, God redeems, God lives! Break into our hearts today; create in us perfect love as we glorify your name! Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.* - Mother Teresa
- ❖ *So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.* - Colossians 2:6

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another,

People: because love is from God.

Leader: Whoever does not love does not know God,

People: for God is love.

Leader: God is love and those who abide in love abide in God,

People: and God abides in them.

-based on 1 John 4:7, 16b

PRAISE SONG: *Together in Christ (music at end of bulletin)*

THE CONFESSION:

All: Christ Jesus, you taught your followers to form community and to share all that they had with those in need. In such a way, you provided for everyone. We have assurance that you walk with us during times of trouble, you provide all good things; yet we often hoard what we have for fear that we will not have plenty. Our cups overflow in many ways, goodness and mercy have followed us; yet, we often hoard our own mercy toward others. We try to thrive even though we are disconnected and alone.

Teach us to share in common those gifts you have given us - material, emotional and spiritual. Forgive us when we lose sight of the call to bring all people into the place of plenty and thanksgiving. May the Scriptures and our prayers transform our hearts every day, so that we keep the vision of all people connected in you.

We take time now to confess to you how disconnected we have become from you and one another:

(silence)

Leader: We are assured of your bountiful forgiveness, and we humbly thank you as you lead us on right paths. Amen.

CONFESSIOIN RESPONSE: *You Set Us Free (music at end of bulletin)*

THE READING: *1 John 4:7-21 (The Message)*

Here is an affirmation about God's love and that it is meant to be reflected to others within an early Christian community. It emphasizes that to claim God as love and not share it with others is inconsistent.

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know God if you don't love. This is how God showed God's love for us: God sent God's only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that God loved us and sent God's Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and God's love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in God, and God in us: God's given us life from God's life, from God's very own Spirit. Also, we've seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent God's Son as Savior of the world. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God. We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

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We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. God loved us first.

If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating their sibling, thinking nothing of it, they are a liar. If they won't love the person they can see, how can they love the God they can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both. though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. God loved us first.

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THE GOSPEL:

John 15:1-8 (The Message)

These are words of Jesus shared with His disciples while in Jerusalem before His death. He speaks of Himself as a vine with branches, or followers, and His Father as the farmer who cares for the vine so it produces fruit. As Jesus' disciples were meant to produce fruit, it might be said that we, who are His followers today, are meant to do the same.

"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

“Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

“I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

MESSAGE: “Don’t Go to the Garden Alone”

- Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: “May This Church Be Like a Tree”
(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:

One: May the one God hold you close and join you in faith. Go and work together in the name of the Christ who unites us all. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: “Ubuntu” (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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Together in Christ

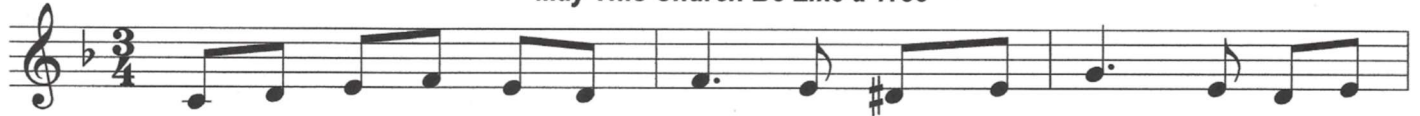
A - lone we are in - com - plete, to - geth - er in Christ we
are some - bod - y. A - lone we are in - com - plete, to - geth - er we are the
fam - i - ly of God. To start, the world
We stand on hills
The tru - est you
a - live, it beats to the rhy - thm of peace, each
like trees in awe of all that we see. Your
be - hind the mask is a glo - ri - ous gift. Break
part hand through, u - nites us and gives us and from the heart.
love is here and lives in the land.
you.

You Set Us Free

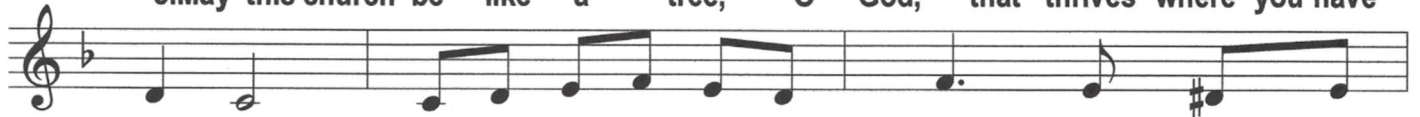
The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'You Set Us Free'. It consists of eight staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'In the dark - ness, you bring light. In our blind - ness, In our thirst, you sat - is - fy. In our loss, our Gift of hope, a liv - ing faith. Gift of peace, for you give sight. In our strug - gles you give life. tears you dry. In our pain, you hear our cry. ev' - ry place. Gift of love for ev' - ry race. For our debts, you paid the price. You set us free to Through the cross, you pur - i - fy. Je - sus is our sav - ing grace. love al - ways. Your love has set us free. You set us free. You call us to be. Your love has set us free to be your hands, to change the world, to work for jus - tice and peace. You set us free. Your love has set us free. You set us free. Your love has set us free.' The score ends with a double bar line.

In the dark - ness, you bring light. In our blind - ness,
In our thirst, you sat - is - fy. In our loss, our
Gift of hope, a liv - ing faith. Gift of peace, for
you give sight. In our strug - gles you give life.
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ev' - ry place. Gift of love for ev' - ry race.
For our debts, you paid the price. You set us free to
Through the cross, you pur - i - fy. Je - sus is
our sav - ing grace. love al - ways. Your love has set us free. You set us free. You
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set us free. You set us free. Your love has set us free.

May This Church Be Like a Tree



1. May this church be like a tree, be - hind your house, there in your
2. May this church be like a tree there in the street or in the
3. May this church be like a tree, O God, that thrives where you have



gar - den, meet - ing place for joy and feast and sim - ple
pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing branch, for pass - ers -
plant - ed; may it stand to show the way, your way of



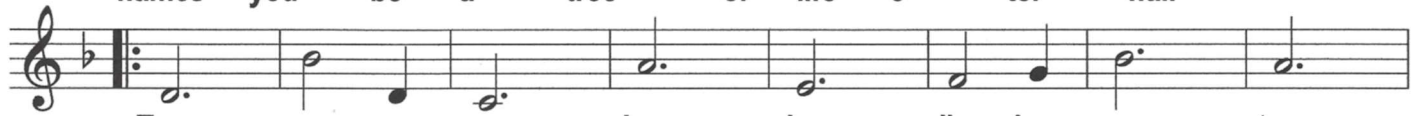
prayer be - neath its branch - es. With its roots in earth so fer - tile
by a wel - come shel - ter. May it stand as if it's watch - ing,
lov - ing and self - giv - ing, of - f'ring shade and fruit for shar - ing,



and its arms raised high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
near my house, just round the corn - er, wait - ing for this wea - ry
giv - ing up its wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that



jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.



Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



run - ning e - tern - nal, flow - ing from God. ___ God. ___

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.

