

TRINITY CHURCH

– KIRKWOOD –

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

November 20, 2022

WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO BUILDS US UP IN LOVE

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Chris Polski Scripture Reader: Meredith Heintz Pastoral Prayer: Ruling Elder, Jim Talent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Quotes and Reflections

"Unity must not be sought at the expense of the gospel." - Walter Chantry

"Unity without the gospel is a worthless unity; it is the very unity of hell." – J.C. Ryle

"Unity is the essence of the body of Christ." – Rienk Kuiper

"Unity is not uniformity. Unity comes from within and is a spiritual grace, while uniformity is the result of pressure from without." – Warren Wiersbe

WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

From Ligonier.com, "One Body, One Spirit, One Call"- July 18, 2011

Throughout Ephesians, Paul is concerned to unfold God's plan to "unite all things" in Christ (Eph. 1:10), a design to bring together people from every tribe and tongue in submission to the Lord Jesus. Until this plan is consummated at the return of Christ, this unity will not be a full reality, for the Father will allow at least a portion of mankind to rebel against Him. At Jesus' second advent, there will be a final separation of humanity into two groups — one people unified in worship and adoration of the one true Creator God and another group that is cast into the outer darkness, where they will experience disharmony among themselves and the wrath of the Creator forever (Matt. 8:5–13).

In the era between the ascension and return of Christ, the church is the beachhead in the Lord's plan to fashion this one people. It manifests in part the unity to come on that final day, for as believing Jews and Gentiles live together in love, creation catches a glimpse of the future. Jesus has done what is necessary to form this unified church (Eph. 2:11–22), and Christians have the important duty of maintaining this oneness, a unity rooted and grounded in the abundant love of our Savior (3:14–4:3). That we might thoroughly understand the importance of unity, the apostle moves on in today's passage to more fully emphasize the oneness of the body of Christ. Beginning in Ephesians 4:4, Paul employs a sevenfold repetition of the term one, looking at each of the aspects that knit the church together.

Verse 4 speaks of one body, one Spirit, and one hope. Spirit, of course, is the Holy Spirit, the one who joins believers to Jesus and to one another, making believers from different backgrounds able to live together as they strive, with His help, to maintain this unity. The one body is the unified community of believers, which includes both those living today and those already enjoying the unmediated presence of Christ in glory (Heb. 12:18–24). Our one hope is the objective reality of resurrected life that we will experience in fullness in the new heaven and earth. Even now, the Holy Spirit grants to all of God's elect the assurance of this hope, a hope that belongs to everyone who trusts in Christ alone for salvation (Rom. 8:18–30).

Although we all have different roles in the body of Christ, our call is the same — to live together in loving unity with other believers as we worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness and proclaim the gospel to the world. When we consider our individual giftings, we should remember that while we have distinct vocations that contribute to the furtherance of God's purposes, all of us have the same call and must support one another in fulfilling it.

Song of Preparation

Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

Words by Anne Steele. Music by Kevin Twit



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*Call to Worship—Psalm 46 (selected)

- Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- People: Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way,
- Leader: Though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- People: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
- Leader: Be still, and know that He is God.
- All: Come, behold the works of the Lord.

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

Behold Our God

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge. Arr. by Joe Brownlee



*Songs of Adoration

Is He Worthy

Words and Music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive

(Ensemble): Do you feel the world is broken? (Congregation): We do (Ensemble): Do you feel the shadows deepen? (Congregation): We do (Ensemble): But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (Congregation): We do (Ensemble): Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (Congregation): We do

(Ensemble): Is all creation groaning? (Congregation): It is (Ensemble): Is a new creation coming? (Congregation): It is (Ensemble): Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (Congregation): It is

(Ensemble): Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (Congregation): It is

(Chorus: All) Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory? Is He worthy of this? He is.

(Ensemble): Does the Father truly love us? (Congregation): He does (Ensemble): Does the Spirit move among us? (Congregation): He does (Ensemble): And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (Congregation): He does (Ensemble): Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (Congregation): He does

(Chorus: All)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with His Son Is He worthy, is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory? Is He worthy of this? He is. Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is. He is

*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD Old Testament Reading—Jeremiah 23:1-6

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord.

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever!

People: Thanks be to God!

WE CONFESS OUR UTTER UNWORTHINESS BEFORE GOD

Call to Confession—Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Silent Confession and Lament

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Col. 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for redeeming us!

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

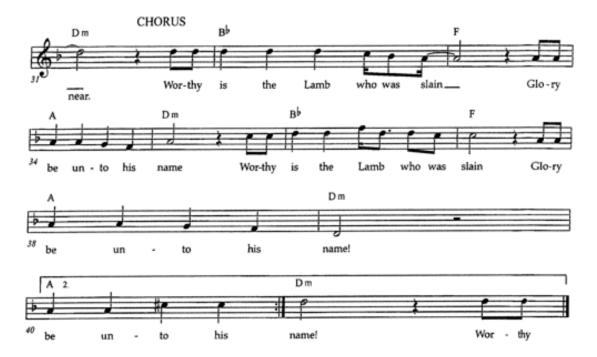
People: And also with you!

*Song of Pardon

The Lamb Has Overcome

Luke Morton





Reception of New Members

Dave Alexander, Gary & Carol De Winkle, Andrew & Kenna Marcus, Allen Mathieu, Susan Miller, David & Tina Preston, Janice Rodes, Sydney Segen, Andrew Sisk

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(Children's Church meets for 4yr to 2nd grade on the 1st & 3rd Sunday)

Offertory Song (Ensemble)

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Philip Bilss and James McGranahan. Arr. by Fernando Ortega

Sermon

"Building the Body of Unity" Ephesians 4:7-16 A Series on the Epistle of Ephesians Rev. Pablo Rosales

*Song of Response

And Can It Be That I Should Gain Trinity Hymnal #455

*Benediction

Adult Sunday School

The Gospel of Matthew (Classroom one)

Ruling Elders Jim Talent and Fielding Poe

This class seeks to provide an in-depth study of the book of Matthew by addressing the text and various key doctrines that emerge from its study toward the goal of helping church members develop a deeper and firmer understanding of the fundamentals of the faith while also providing encouragement and instruction for those who may be interested in leading their own bible studies in the future. The ultimate goal is that all who take part will come away with a renewed appreciation for the King of Kings!

Perspectives on Parenting (Classroom two)

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

Parenting is one of the most difficult and yet, rewarding experiences in our lives. But how do we navigate the complexities we face at each different stage of the journey? Join Pastor Polski for this Sunday School class as he leads conversations on, and explores biblical teachings related to issues in parenting. Please note that this class isn't just for parents of young children, it's for anyone and everyone who ever has been, is now, or who hopes to be a parent someday since an intergenerational and multi-perspectival dialogue on parenting is essential to developing a context for wisdom and discernment in our calling as parents.

Adult Choir (Sanctuary)

Katie Polski, Director of Music Ministries

Do you enjoy singing? Join us for 8-9 weeks as we prepare songs for upcoming worship services. No experience necessary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday school classes for all ages meet today.

Jr. Students: meet on Wednesdays from 6-7:15pm.
Sr. High meets on Sundays from 6-7:30pm in the lower level youth area. Youth Christmas Party: Dec. 14th from 6-7:30pm

Mom's Group meets monthly to encourage one another and enjoy an evening out. The **next gathering is THIS Mon.**, Nov. 21st from 6:30-8pm at Alyce Bava's.

The **Tuesday evening Women's Bible Study** will meet at Melissa Jorgensen's on Nov. 29th at 7pm. The **Men's and Women's Wednesday bible studies** are on hiatus until the new year.

Volunteers today: Ushers: Roberts, Maglione, Wong, O'Neal. Nursery: Poe, Doak, S. Goldstein, Younger, Hammond. SS: Broughton, Keating. Next Sunday: Ushers: Schaeffer, Schlitt, T. Thomason. Nursery: Hendricks, Nichols, Schmidt, Williamson, Petty.

ACTION (All Church Things In One Night) **will** resume in the new year.

Ladies, join us for an evening of friends, food, fun, and wreath making! Wed., Dec. 7th from 6-8pm at Kathy O'Neals. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. If you would like to make a wreath be sure to sign up on Church Center by Nov. 25th or see Jessica Doiron.

Christmas Craft Party: Sat., Dec. 3rd at 9am. Kids ages 4yrs to 5th grade will make gifts to take home, enjoy singing, a special Christmas story, and lunch. Space is limited. **Registration is open** on Church Cetner or our website. **Bring your friends!** We still **need volunteers and donations.** Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hall or on Church Center.

Christmas Craft Volunteer Meeting and Lunch next Sun., Nov. 27th following Sunday school.

Trinity's annual **Christmas Concert** is Sun., Dec. 18th at 6:30pm (doors open at 6pm). This year's concert, *The Weary World Rejoices*, will begin with a prelude by W. Mark Akin, classical guitarist.

Christmas Eve Service at 5pm, Christmas Morning Service at 10:30am.

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.

There are **several easy ways to serve at Trinity**. Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators to get involved: **Ushers**: Paul Schaffer (PaulSchaffer1012@gmail.com), **Greeters**: James Broughton (jlbroughton12@gmail.com), **Nursery**: Alyce Bava (jimnalyce@yahoo.com). **Children's SS**: Michelle Goldstein or Melissa Kocker (medcalf.melissa@gmail.com)

Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, church directory, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.

You can **sign up for all upcoming events** by scanning your phone camera over the QR code and then <u>following the link</u>:



THANKSGIVING WEEK

Make plans to join us THIS **Wednesday at 5:30pm** for a family friendly service of thanksgiving. We will worship in song, prayer, and with testimonies of God's goodness. It is a tradition to open the floor to anyone who would like to briefly share what they are thankful for and to bring a symbol or item related to their testimony. All ages are welcome to share!

Then **come back on Sat., Nov. 26th** at 9am to help us decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.We need a few strong folks willing to climb ladders!

MISSION UPDATE

Coffee on Glenwood – This past Friday, November 18th

Coffee of Glenwood began to show our neighbors, as they pass by our church on Friday mornings, that we are here. We understand that the weeks have been long and there are pressures at school and work. Maybe a smile, a cup of coffee, a croissant, and prayer, will encourage them before the weekend. We want them to know that Trinity Church exists to serve them and not ourselves.

This past Friday a few of us were able to do just that. While it was brutally cold, several people did stop for a cup of coffee and shared with us some of their prayer requests. This included prayer for family, children, work, and even their own hurt and suffering. Please pray for all those who stopped and shared (and even those that saw us waving).

Robinson Elementary Food Pantry Collection – Now through Sunday, December 4th

Robinson Elementary hosts a food pantry every month during the school year. They collect and distribute food and supplies to families in need. Trinity Church has partnered with them and assists in greeting, meeting, and providing necessary items to families.

This upcoming Sunday we will begin collecting items for their holiday pantry. Included in your bulletin this week is a list of items that have been requested. Please take the insert home with you today. If you happen to go to the grocery store, please consider purchasing some of the items. The final day for collecting will be Sunday, December 4th.

If you have any questions, please email Pablo.

If you would like to sign up for the December 19th food pantry, please do so on the events page of the church center app. There are currently 2 volunteer positions open.



Trinity's ministries are organized around the core values in our purpose statement which reads: Trinity Church exists to **exalt** God's name, **establish** God's people, **equip** God's church and **engage** God's world, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake of the Risen King, Jesus Christ.

www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org

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