

TRINITY CHURCH

— KIRKWOOD –

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

April 23, 2023



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WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO GOES BEFORE US

Liturgist: Rev. Pablo Rosales Scripture Reader: Alyce Bava Pastoral Prayer: Duncan Highmark, Ruling Elder

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Quotes and Reflections

It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant. — Matthew 20:26

"The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve." — John Stott

"The way of the Christian leader is not the way of upward mobility in which our world has invested so much, but the way of downward mobility ending on the cross." — Henri Nouwen

WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

The Maddening Paradox of Leadership (Abridged) by Dan Doriani

thegospelcoalition.org: November 24, 2020

Leadership is always a glory and a ruin, a privilege and a torment. People look for leaders, who are in short supply, and they look to leaders, whose skills and achievements they often exaggerate.

Leaders have friends and allies who assist and advise them, favor and flatter them, haunt them and hover over them. But they also have adversaries who criticize and condemn, squinting at the simplest act. They drown their leaders and delight in their demise, forgetting that it's so much easier to critique a sermon, a book, or a movie than it is to deliver, write, or direct one. And it's so much easier to rail at a leader than to be one.

Every step up in rank brings privileges—influence, wealth, assistance, knowledge. But every step up is simultaneously a step down—pressures, troubles, and demands. Every honor gained is a freedom lost.

Peter spoke to leaders in a difficult decade for churches, and his principles resonate today:

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. (1 Pet. 5:1–3)

First, notice that Peter calls himself "a fellow elder," not an apostle. He identifies with the people he leads, instead of locating himself above them. So let us continue to identify with our people.

Second, Peter points his fellow elders to the pattern of Christ. For him, as for us, there is suffering and then there is glory. This was the course for Jesus, so let us be neither surprised nor alarmed if our ministry includes hardship.

Third, Peter states the core task. In the church, it is to shepherd and watch over God's flock. Pastors may speak of "my church, my people, or my flock," but the church is "the flock of God" first and last. It is our sacred trust to care for God's people.

Fourth, Peter describes the mentality and motivations of a Christian leader with three contrasts. Elders lead . . .

- "not under compulsion, but willingly"
- "not for shameful gain, but eagerly"
- "not domineering, but being examples"

All three points describe Jesus, for he leads willing, eagerly, and by setting an example. So should we. When we look to Jesus, we expect leadership to be costly, for it cost him first. We also expect it to become rewarding, for he saw the result of his suffering and was satisfied (Isa. 53:11).

So leadership is a paradox—a ruin but finally a glory, a torment but also a privilege.

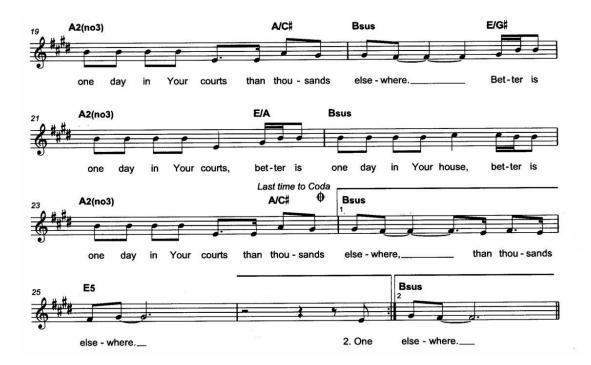
Song of Preparation

Better Is One Day

Words and Music by Matt Redman



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Call to Worship—Psalm 116 (selected)

- Leader: What shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits to us?
- People: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,
- Leader: O Lord, we are your servants;
- People: You have loosed our bonds.
- All: We will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

Psalm150 (Praise the Lord)

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

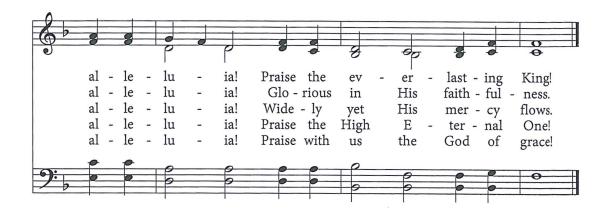




Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Words: Henry F. Lyte. Music: American folk melody





*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD New Testament Reading—Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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—1 Peter 1:17

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile...

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—1 Peter 1:18-19

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Leader: Christian, give thanks to God for saving us by the precious blood of Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

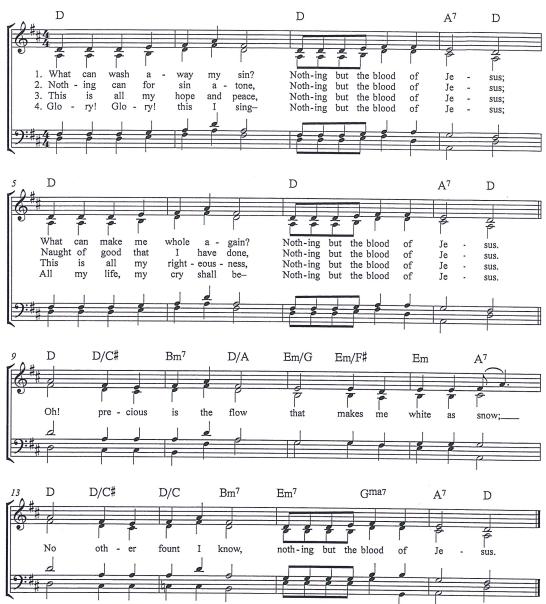
Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

People: And also with you!

*Song of Rejoicing

Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Words and Music by Robert Lowry. Arr. by Keith Getty, Fianan de Barra, Dave Cleveland, Ross Holmes, and Matt Menafee



Children's Sermon

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(Children's Church meets for 4yr to 2nd grade in room 106)

Offertory Song (Ensemble) The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours) Words and Music by Matt Maher, Bryan Fowler, and Jacob Sooter

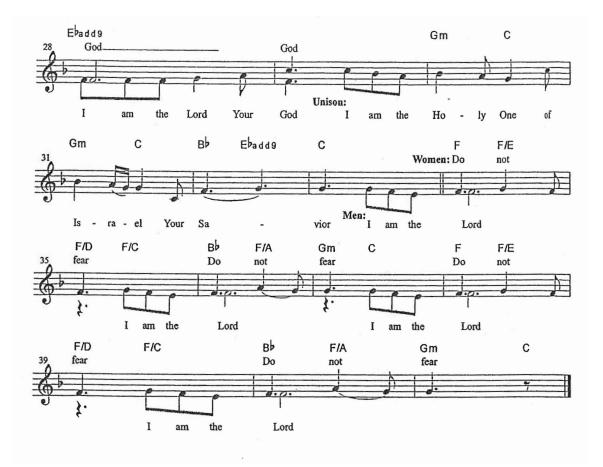
Sermon

"The Burden and Responsibilities of Leading and Following" A Series on the Book of Deuteronomy Deuteronomy 1:9-18 Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

*Song of Response

Isaiah 43 Composer Unknown





*Benediction

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Skills in Bible Reading and Interpretation - Dr. Aaron Goldstein (Room 111)

The Bible is God's word. It is also a big book, written over centuries, by different human authors, from various historical contexts, and in a variety of literary genres! In this class, we will discuss theory and practice for reading this diverse material well. (It will be fun!)

Trinity Connect - Rev. Dr. Chris Polski & Rev. Pablo Rosales (Room 110)

Are you interested in learning more about Trinity Church and the PCA? Thinking of becoming a member? If so, join Pastor Polski and Pastor Rosales for this six week class. While attending this class does not commit you to membership, it is a prerequisite.

Exodus - Ruling Elders, Fielding Poe and Jim Talent (Fireplace Room-101)

Moses, the Law, the Egyptian Plagues, the flight from Egypt: the references from Exodus are throughout Scripture. Can we really understand Mount Zion, unless we study to appreciate this experience of Mount Sinai? As our pastors take us through Exodus in their Sunday sermons, we will be doing a verse-by-verse study of the book, Exodus, a Flight from Slavery.

Jr. & Sr. High Students - Lower level 4th-5th Grade - Room 102 1st-3rd Grade - Room 106B Pre K/Kindergarten - Room 105 Nursery - Rooms 103 & 104

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday school classes for all ages meet today.

Women's Bible Studies: Two Tues. a month a group meets in the evenings to discuss Psalm 23 (next gathering: 4/25). The Wed. study is on hiatus.

Women's Dessert and Social: TOMORROW., Apr. 24th at 7:30pm at Mickie Schmidt's.

Men's Bible study is continuing to meet for a few more weeks on Wed. at 6pm.

Volunteers today: Ushers: S. Thomason, Heintz, Standerfer, Younger. Nursery: C. Waldron, McCall, S. Hendricks, Ridenhour, Martir. SS: Oehlerking, Harlow. CC: K. Standerfer, Sweet. Next Sunday: Ushers: Oehlerking, Moen, Broughton, Smith. Nursery: Garner, L. Nichols, Goldstein, Williamson, J. Petty. SS: Mitchell, Broughton. No CC next week.

Family Movie Night: THIS Fri., Apr. 28 at 6 pm (showtime at 6:15 pm). We will be watching Raya and the Last Dragon. Wear your comfiest clothes (PJs welcome!), bring your pillow and blanket, and meet us in the youth room downstairs! Lemonade and popcorn will be provided. Extra treats are welcome, but please help us stay peanut free. Please register on Church Center.

If you would like to receive the monthly **Children's Ministry Newsletter**, please send your email address to:

melissa.kocher @trinitychurchkirkwood.org.

Cinco de Mayo: The Missions Committee will be hosting missionary Cheryl Crocker on Fri., May 5, from 6-7:30 PM. We'll have tacos and mission updates. RSVP preferred, but not necessary, to Liz Boehne at 314-960-4874 or gregliz@swbell.net.

Make plans to join us for our **Summer Discussion Series** events from 6-7:30pm. More details will follow, but here are the topics and dates: June 7-Transgenderism and Gender Dysphoria, June 29 (*adjusted date from original*)- Christianity, Politics and Patriotism, Aug. 2- Disagreeing Biblically. If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amy.mitchell@trinitychurchkirkwood.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: Paul.Schaffer@trinitychurchkirkwood.org, **Greeters**: James Broughton (jlbroughton12@gmail.com), **Nursery**: Alyssa Hall (alyssaruth120@gmail.com). **Children's Ministry:** Melissa Kocker (Melissa.Kocher@trinitychurchkirkwood.org)

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>:



SAVE THE DATE(S)

As summer approaches we want to give you a few dates to add to your calendar:

Oasis BBQ- May 20 Summer Discussion Series-(dates to the left) Children's Ministry Summer Kickoff-Jun. 10 Bike Night- Jun. 21 Lawn Games Night- July 5 Summer Splash- July 19 Prayer & Praise- Aug. 6 Women's Retreat- Aug 11-12

MISSIONS UPDATE

The Mobilized Church: Missions Workshop – April 26th and 27th

If someone were to ask you, "What kind of missions work does your church do?", would you know what to say? In a lot of churches, "missions" is the work of a few people in the church while the rest of the congregation is in the dark as to what is going on. This is no one-person's fault. Rather, it comes from a culture of compartmentalization and specialization. These aren't necessarily bad things, but we can see what happens if what is meant to be a team effort gets compartmentalized too early too soon. Take youth sports for example—kids (sometimes as early as 5 years old) are given a position that they will be expected to play for the rest of their lives. Note only will this delay athleticism and field awareness, but soon the team game is "not fun anymore." Similarly, the particular position of "missions" is given to some and they are expected to play that position for the rest of the lives.

In the mobilized church workshop, which will be hosted here at Trinity Church, we want to discover how the entire church can be involved in missions. How, as a team (or one body), we can strengthen and deepen our missional engagement for the spreading of the gospel.

These are two all-day workshops (9am – 5pm). Cost and information are found by clicking this QR code: Please contact Pastor Pablo with any questions.

Mark your calendars – May 20th - BBQ with Oasis International

Oasis is a ministry that comes alongside new arrivals to this country to help them acclimate to a new land, people, and cultures. They provide resources and material goods to families in order to reflect the love that God has for all his image bearers. They are constantly looking to deepen relationships with refugees and immigrants in order to find open doors for sharing what we all need, the reconciliation of our broken relationship with God.

This BBQ serves to strengthen the relationship that Oasis has with this community. At the same time, it is a unique opportunity for us to create and develop relationships with people who are very different from us, all while enjoying a Arts and Crafts, a performance from Kinetic Tapestry (A Circus and Performing Arts Studio in St. Louis), Grilled Burgers and Hot Dogs. Sign up to volunteer here:



Please bring the whole family for this event. Non-volunteers can arrive around 11am. Location: Oasis International, 5035 Gravois Ave, St. Louis, MO 63116

<u> Mission Gate Ministry Luncheon – This Friday, April 28th</u>

Free food! Now I have your attention. Mission Gate is a local ministry that seeks to transform men and women with the power of the Gospel. During this luncheon you will hear testimony from several people who have met Jesus in prison through this ministry. This event will be held at The Lodge Des Peres from 12-1:30pm. RSVP by Wednesday, April 26th to attend.

Please see Chuck Barker or Jim Talent for more information.



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.

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