



# TRINITY CHURCH

— KIRKWOOD —

*2 CORINTHIANS 4:5*

March 30, 2025  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

# WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO DELIVERS US THROUGH OUR DOUBT

(Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service, but if your family needs a break from the sanctuary or wants to move around, our family overflow room with toys is available in room 111. We also have an area for nursing moms in room 106 by the back entrance.)

**Nursery Volunteers (worship service):** Alyce Bava, Kim & Maggie Linenbroker, Debbie Highmark

**Liturgist:** Rev. Pablo Rosales

**Scripture Reader:** Mary Berardi

**Pastoral Prayer:** Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## Quotes and Reflection

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

— Matthew 28:16-17

"Surely... we cannot imagine any certainty that is not tinged with doubt, or any assurance that is not assailed by some anxiety." — John Calvin

"I do not believe there ever existed a Christian yet, who did not now and then doubt his interest in Jesus. I think, when a man says, 'I never doubt,' it is quite time for us to doubt him." — Charles Spurgeon

"To deny, to believe, and to doubt absolutely — this is for man what running is for a horse."  
— Blaise Pascal

"Doubt is the blank parts of the canvas which is being filled with the color of belief."  
— Mark Sayers

# Devotional Preparation

## “Value Confidence over Certainty” (Excerpt) Randy Newman

From: [Thegospelcoalition.org](http://Thegospelcoalition.org)

What if you can't prove God created the world with a sense of order or design, but all the complexity and beauty in the physical universe suggest this is more likely than the conclusion it happened through chaos and chance?

If we're seeking confidence more than certainty, one factor can help toward our goal: *coherence*. If all belief systems contain things we know and things we can't, we should look to see which systems hold together best or which beliefs resonate with the reality we see all around us.

Let's say you're walking in the woods and come upon a turtle sitting atop a tree stump three feet off the ground. Picture it. Knowing what you know about trees and turtles, a few conclusions seem more likely than others.

We know trees don't stop growing with a flat surface on top. We know people often cut down trees with saws that make for a flat surface on a tree trunk. We also know that turtles crawl horizontally and can't ascend three-foot vertical planes. We could conclude that (1) someone cut down this tree, and (2) someone lifted the turtle and put it on top of the stump. Or we could conclude that (1) the tree stopped growing and part of it fell off, leaving a flat surface on the stump, and (2) the turtle climbed up the vertical surface until it got to the horizontal plane and stopped for a rest. One conclusion coheres better with what we know about the reality of trees and turtles.

Now let's consider some issues more important than how a turtle got on top of a tree stump. We live in a world with many competing perspectives—some religious and some naturalistic. A Christian perspective says we live in an ordered world created by a good God who made people in his image. The naturalistic perspective says we evolved by random chance in a universe without any purposeful cause. We also live in a world where people value equality and respect. Which belief system supports our commonly held values? How did we arrive at believing we should treat people with impartiality and kindness?

We may not know with absolute certainty how or when our world was created or grasp all the complexities of human existence. But I want to suggest we can have a high level of confidence that it makes more sense to believe we live in a created world with a personal God than to believe we're nothing more than cosmic accidents.

## **Song of Preparation** (Ensemble and Children's Choir)

*I Will (with God's Help)*

Gregory W LaFollette

### **Call to Worship—Psalm 116 (selected)**

Leader: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

**People: For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;**

Leader: What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

**People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,**

Leader: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

**All: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Now, O Great King, help us to call on your name in faith and with joy as we enter your courts this morning!

# WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

## \*Songs of Adoration

## Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Words by John Newton. Music by Laura Taylor



1. Let us love and sing and won - der,  
2. Let us love and sing and who bought us,  
3. Let us sing through fierce temp - ta - tion



Let us praise the Sa - vior's name,  
Pit - ied us when he en - de - vored  
Threat - ened us hard to bear us down



He has hushed the law's loud thun - der,  
Called us by his grace and sal - vation  
For the Lord our strong sal - va - tion



He has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame, He has  
Gave us ears and the gave us eyes He has  
Holds in view the conq - ueror's crown He who



washed us with His blood, He has  
washed us with His blood, He has  
washed us with His blood, He who

11 Gm Eb

washed us with His blood, He has  
 washed us with His blood, He has  
 washed us with His blood, He who

13 Gm Eb

washed us with His blood, He has  
 washed us with His blood, He has  
 washed us with His blood, He pre -  
 washed us with His blood, Soon will

15 F Bb

brought us nigh to God  
 sent our souls to God  
 bring us home to God

17 F Gm Eb

4. Let us wonder grace and justice  
 Join and point to mercy's store  
 When through grace in Christ our trust is  
 Justice smiles and asks no more  
 He who washed us with His blood  
 He who washed us with His blood  
 He who washed us with His blood  
 Has secured our way to God

5. Let us praise and join the chorus  
 Of the saints enthroned on high  
 Here they trusted Him before us  
 Now their praises fill the sky  
 Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
 Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
 Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
 Thou art worthy Lamb of God

# Behold Our God

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

1-15 C **VERSE** Em C Em

1. Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
 2. Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His words?  
 3. Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?

5 C Em C

Kings and nations tremble at his voice. All creation  
 Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fathom  
 God eternal, humbled to the grave, Jesus, Savior,

8 Em7 G **CHORUS** C G/B Am F

ris-es to re-joice. Be-hold our God, seat-ed on His throne. Come, let us a-  
 all his won-drous deeds? ris-en now to reign!

13 C G C G/B Am F C G C

dore Him. Be-hold our King, noth-ing can com-pare, come, let us a-dore Him!

19 Em C Em | 2. F2 Em F2 G | 3. C **FINE**

Him!

Him!

**BRIDGE** C F/C C F/C Am7

Men: You will reign for - ev - er. You will reign for - ev - er. You will reign for -  
 Women: Let Your glo - ry fill the earth. Let Your glo - ry fill the earth. Let Your

F Am7 F

ev - er. You will reign for - ev - er. Let Your glo - ry fill the earth.

C F Am7 F **DS**

You will reign for - ev - er. You will reign for - ev - er. Be  
 Let Your glo - ry fill the earth. Let Your glo - ry fill,

## \*Prayer of Adoration

# WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

## Old Testament Reading—Luke 15:11-32

### The Parable of the Prodigal Son

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**



# WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

## **Call to Confession—Psalm 32:3-4**

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

## **Silent Confession and Lament**

## **Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Psalm 32:5**

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to to the Lord who forgives the iniquity of our sin!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

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

**People: And also with you!**

## **\*Song of Rejoicing**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*  
Trinity Hymnal #604 (vs. 1, 4-6)

## **Children's Sermon**

Mr. Mason Powell

# WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

**Pastoral Prayer**



## **Tithes and Offerings**

No Children's Church on the 5th Sunday of the month (today)

*If you would like to give your tithe online, scan your camera phone here:*



**Offertory Song** (Adult Choir)

*We Are Not Alone*

Pepper Choplin

## **Sermon**

"Doubt and Faith"

Mark 9:14-27

Sermon Series, Soul Life

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

# \*Song of Response

## I Set My Hope on Jesus

Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, and Matt Papa

♩ = 73

B♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭ E♭maj7 F B♭ B♭sus B♭

1. When this

### VERSE 1

B♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭/D F B♭ F/A

life of tri - als tests my faith, I set my hope on Je - sus. When the

10 Gm E♭ B♭/D E♭ F B♭ F/A

ques - tions come and doubts re - main, I set my hope on Je - sus. For the

14 Gm Dm E♭ B♭/D Cm7 F

deep - est wounds that time won't heal, there's a joy that runs still deep - er. There's a

### CHORUS 1a

18 B♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭/D Cm7 Fsus B♭ E♭2 B♭

truth that's more than all I feel, I set my hope on Je - sus. I set my hope on

23 Gm F B♭ F/A Gm E♭ B♭/D *2nd time to Coda* ♯

Je - sus, my rock, my on - ly trust, who set His heart up - on my first. I

28 E♭ F B♭ E♭ B♭ E♭maj7 F B♭ B♭sus

set my hope on Je - sus. 2. Though I

### VERSE 2

B♭ E♭ B♭ E♭ B♭/D F B♭ F/A

fal - ter in this war with sin, I set my hope on Je - sus. When I

37 Gm Eb Bb2/D Eb F Bb F/A  
 fail the fight and sink with - in, I set my hope on Je - sus. Though the  
 41 Gm Dm Eb Bb/D Cm7 F  
 shame would drown me in its sea and I dread the waves of jus - tice, I will  
 Bb Bb/D Eb Cm7 F Bb Eb2  
 cast my life on Cal - va - ry, I set my hope on Je - sus. I  
 D.S. al Coda

49 Coda  
 set my hope on Je - - - - -  
 F

**INSTRUMENTAL**

Bb Bb/D Eb Bb Eb Gm F Bb Gm Eb Bb/D Eb F  
 sus.

**VERSE 3**

57 Bb Bbsus Bb Eb Bb/D Eb2 Bb/D F Bb F/A  
 3.Though the world calls me to leave my Lord, I set my hope on Je - sus. Though it  
 62 Gm Eb Bb/D Ebmaj7 F Bb F/A  
 of - fers all its vain re - wards, I set my hope on Je - sus. Though this  
 66 Gm Dm Eb Bb/D Cm7 F  
 heart of mine is prone to stray, give me grace e - nough to fin - ish. Till I

**CHORUS 1a**

70 Bb Bb/D Eb Cm7 Fsus Bb Eb2 Bb  
 wor - ship on that fi - nal day, I set my hope on Je - sus. I set my hope on

**\*Benediction** If you would like a time of prayer with one of our elders,  
 please come to the front of the sanctuary after the service.

**Nursery Volunteer (SS):** Lori Nichols (please report to the toddler nursery directly following the service)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Soul Life Sermon Discussion-** Pastor Polski and Jamie McCall (Sanctuary)  
Each week, we will also host a follow up Sunday School in the sanctuary co-taught by Pastor Polski and Jamie McCall (a certified Christian Counselor) that will be a debrief of the sermon paired with some helpful framing of how each of these spiritual emotions can be better understood (Spiritual Depression, Grief, Doubt, Suffering, Disappointment with God, and Lament).

**Proverbs-** Ruling Elders Poe and Talent (Room 110)  
Ruling Elders Talent and Poe will guide us through the Book of Proverbs.

**Evangelism in a Skeptical World-** Pastor Rosales (Room 111)  
“Swim! It doesn’t matter if you don’t know how. Just jump in and swim!”  
Hopefully that’s not how you learned to swim, but it is often what we feel when we’re told to evangelize. Wait a minute...what is evangelism? And how do I do that in an increasingly post-Christian context? Join Pastor Pablo as we look at *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*. Together we will dip our feet in the theology of evangelism, a few strategies, and then how to craft a gospel presentation. While you will not get a one-size-fits-all approach to evangelism, there are helpful tools to first help of float and then stroke through the waters.

**Adult Choir-** Katie Polski and Abby Roberts (Fireplace Room)  
Calling all singers! Join our Trinity choir March 2nd through April 27th. We'll learn pieces that we'll sing in worship throughout the spring (including Easter Sunday). No musical experience necessary; the only thing needed is a heart for worship and a desire to SING.

**Jr. & Sr. High Students -** Lower level

**4th-5th Grade -** Room 102

**1st-3rd Grade -** 106B

**Preschool (3yrs by July 31) /Kindergarten -** Room 105

**Nursery -** Room 104

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday school classes for all ages meet today.

**Visitors:** If you are visiting with us today we would love to give you a small gift. Please stop by the Welcome Table so we can say "hello."

**Volunteers today:** Ushers: Oehlerking, Moen, Broughton, Barker. Nursery: Bava, Linenbrokers, Highmark. SS: Nichols. **Next Sunday:** Ushers: Roberts, Wong, Maglione, Alexander. Nursery: Elzinga, McCall, Marcus, Goldstein. SS: Chenoa. CC: Doiron, Petty, Goldstein.

The **Wednesday women's Bible studies** meet at 9am (childcare provided) OR 6:15pm.

**Men's Bible study:** Meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wed. (6:15pm) or Fri. (6:30am) of the month.

**Church Work Day:** Sat., Apr. 5 at 9am. Many hands will help us with our long list of chores.

**Kingdom Kids** meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays from 4:30-6:30 pm for ages 3yrs-5th grade. The children enjoy a shared meal, games, Bible lesson, and choir.

**Kingdom Prayer:** Join us TODAY for a guided prayer meeting to pray for God to bring renewal to StL.

**Men's Night this Wed.** at 7:30pm at Chris Freeman's. The next **Men's Breakfast** is Apr. 26 from 8-9:30am.

**Holy Week details: Maundy Thursday,** Apr. 17th at 5:30pm. Join us for a light meal, singing, reflection, and the Lord's Supper. Space is limited so use the QR code to register. **Good Friday** self-guided Stations of the Cross and special music: Apr. 18, 6:30-8:30am and 3-8pm (with special music from 6:45-8pm). **Easter Sunday** services: 7am (outdoor) and 9:30am. To donate eggs for the **Easter Egg Hunt** use the QR code.

The **Grounds Crew could use your help** with mowing and trimming the church grounds. Schedule is flexible. Please contact Glynn Schlitt if you are able to help.

**Sunday Snacks:** Do you or your family enjoy the little "pick me up" after worship? If so, please consider signing up to bring snacks. Please try and keep the snacks nut free. Sign up using the QR code on the snack table or see Mary Rosales.

**Easter Flowers** will be available following the 9:30am service on Apr. 20. Donations are appreciated!

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to [amy.mitchell@trinitychurchkirkwood.org](mailto: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](mailto:Paul.Schaffer@trinitychurchkirkwood.org),

**Greeters:** James Broughton (James. [Broughton@trinitychurchkirkwood.org](mailto:Broughton@trinitychurchkirkwood.org)),

**Children's Ministry:** Erin Wagberg ([Erin.Wagberg@trinitychurchkirkwood.org](mailto:Erin.Wagberg@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 [following the link](#):



## ART ENCOUNTERS

Come enjoy an evening of rest and connecting with Jesus in a fresh way on **Sat., Apr. 5 at 6:30pm**. We'll spend time in contemplation, reflection, and prayer as we consider how a historical painting forms us spiritually. Our guides, Melissa McKinney and Amanda Lennon, will gently lead us through a process that helps us comfortably engage with our painting and reflect on how God might be shaping us through it. Whether you are a long-time lover of art or feel brand new, this event is for you. Register using the QR code above.

# MISSION UPDATE

ALL the links mentioned below can be found using this QR code:



**Prayers:** Scan the QR link for the **March** 2025 Newsletter and Prayer Calendar.

## **Goers:**

**Forai** is a ministry to Refugee and Immigrant women in the St. Louis area. Their mission is to share to gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, while walking with them and teaching them the skills to create their own business. Learn about other opportunities by following the link in the QR code above.

**Restore St. Louis Workday** – 18 volunteers joined together to help elderly and widows with yard work. Please see the quick slide show on our Missions Wall. **Our next Restore workday will be on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be available in the coming weeks.**

## **Senders:**

**Thank you Trinity Church!** Thank you to all who are making the “Going” and “Welcoming” possible. Thank you for the donations to the Robinson Food Pantry. There are only two left this school year (April and May). Please scan the QR code for more info on those. Also, thank you for your support of the Youth Missions trip this summer. Your prayerful giving can cultivate a young heart for life-long missions.

## **Welcomers:**

**Snacks!** Believe it or not, snacks are a part of our weekly ministry. A few calories, fat, carbs, protein, and natural sugar, are necessary fuel for the body. Sadly, around 10:45am every Sunday, those energy stores are depleted and need a quick replenishment (especially for those little ones). Help prevent “hanger” through hospitality by participating in this ministry. A link to the snack schedule can be found by using the QR code.

**Robinson Elementary Food Pantry** – Our last 2 pantries of the school year are upon us. Thank you to all who have joined to partner with local families during tough times. We are in need of the following items for the April 17<sup>th</sup> pantry. Please bring items by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are grocery shopping, please consider buying one or some of the following from the pantry wish list:

- Liquid Hand Soap and Dish soap
- Disinfecting Spray/All-Purpose Cleaner
- Toilet Paper and Paper Towels and Tissues
- Laundry Detergent and Bleach
- All Feminine Products
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Women's and Men's Deodorant
- Sugar and Flour
- Cooking Oil
- Shampoo and Conditioner

## **Mobilizers:**

**If you would like to join our Missions teams, please contact Pastor Pablo.**

# WELCOME

We are glad you could join us! We would love to connect with you and answer any questions you may have about Trinity. Scan below with your phone camera to leave us your contact 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.

[www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org](http://www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org)

314-821-7311 | [info@trinitychurchkirkwood.org](mailto:info@trinitychurchkirkwood.org)

[www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org](http://www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org) • Facebook: Trinity Church Kirkwood

