



TRINITY CHURCH

— KIRKWOOD —

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

November 23, 2025

WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO IS FAITHFUL

(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): Laurel Elzinga, Beth Williamson, Cheryl Poe, Lily Polski

Liturgist: Mitchell Dixon

Scripture Reader: Kathy O'Neal

Welcome and Announcements

Quotes and Reflection

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. — Rom. 8:18

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

“I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages.”

— Charles Spurgeon

“Suffering is the badge of the true Christian. The disciple is not above his Master.”
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*

WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

Don't Downplay the Pain in Suffering--Sarah Walton (TGC)

Suffering. How can one small word hold so much complexity? It can elicit: fear, dread, anxiety, bitterness, anger, and panic. It can also stir up: courage, strength, growth, humility, and faith.

Suffering is so painfully complex that we struggle to find answers to it, yet it demands answers nonetheless. Which is why, I believe, we often grasp at any answer we can surmise to make sense of our pain.

God must want to teach me something.

Maybe I'm being disciplined for unconfessed sin.

It's because my faith isn't strong enough.

God must want to turn my pain into a ministry.

He's allowing it so he can show his miraculous healing power.

It's not wrong to consider how God might use our suffering. But one of our greatest temptations is so quickly trying to find a greater purpose for our pain that we downplay the reason we feel it in the first place. Suffering, in a sense, is a taste of death. It's the sting of sin within us and around us. We do ourselves a disservice when we too quickly gloss over the pain. Until we acknowledge the true grief, we can't truly appreciate how Jesus enters into it with us and brings redemption into the broken places of our lives.

Hard Things Can Become Holy Things

Although we desperately want to assign meaning to our suffering, John Andrew Bryant poignantly explains, "Suffering, by itself, does not have any meaning. It only ruins, it only takes away. It is only given meaning by Christ's proximity to it." By Christ "enduring, bearing, and overcoming" our suffering, Bryant explains...these hard things can become holy things as Jesus enters that suffering with me, drawing me nearer to his presence, giving me his comfort and strength, and making me more like him.

And your suffering, too, is just that: suffering. The loss of your child, the terminal diagnosis, the broken marriage—they're all places of unredeemable torment apart from our Savior's resurrection power and presence. Our suffering isn't good in and of itself. It's a taste of death, and we should grieve it as such. In the place of honest agony, we're able to experience the sacredness of Jesus's nail-scarred hands entering that pain with us and, in a way that only he can, Jesus makes hard things holy things and evil things redeemed things through his blood.

Transformed by Presence, Not Pain

The point isn't to come to a place of saying, "That awful thing is somehow now a good thing." It's to say, "Only by the redemptive power and presence of Jesus have I endured this place of death and been drawn more into the presence of his life."

So we grieve and acknowledge our suffering without cheapening the pain as if it's something we should call good in and of itself. But we also don't lose heart, because we'll find strength, comfort, and reason to endure as Jesus enters it with us. We find life in him even within the depths of darkness.

It's not the pain that transforms us. It's Jesus's presence in the pain. The truth Paul shared with the Corinthian church remains true for us:

Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Cor. 4:16–18)

In the darkest places, may we one day find we're standing on holy ground, not because of the pain but because we've experienced Jesus's transforming power in it.

Song of Preparation

Better Is One Day

Matt Redman

$\text{♩} = 77$

E5 **A2(no3)**

1. How love - ly is Your dwell - ing place, O Lord al - might -
(2. One) thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beau -

Bsus **E5** **Bsus**

y. — For my soul longs and e - ven faints for You.
ty, — to find You in the place Your glo - ry dwells.

E5

For here my heart is sat - is - fied
One thing I ask and I would seek:

A2(no3) **Bsus** **E5**

with - in Your pres - ence. — I sing be - neath the
To see Your beau - ty, — to find You in the

Bsus

shad - ow of Your wings. — Bet - ter is
place Your glo - ry dwells. — Bet - ter is

A2(no3) **E/A** **Bsus**

one day in Your courts, bet - ter is one day in Your house, bet - ter is

Call to Worship—Isaiah 89 (selected)

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever;

People: With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

People: For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,

All: (You are) a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him.

Leader: And now, O God of eternal faithfulness, prepare our hearts and voices to sing your praise!

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

Behold Our God

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

♩ = 73

VERSE

1. Who has held the o - ceans in His hands? Who has num bered ev - ery grain of sand?
 2. Who has giv - en coun - sel to the Lord? Who can ques - tion an - y of His words?
 3. Who has felt the nails up - on His hands, bear - ing all the guilt of sin - ful man?

5

Kings and na - tions trem - ble at his voice. All cre - a - tion
 Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fath - om
 God e - ter - nal, hum - bled to the grave, Je - sus, Sav - ior,

8

CHORUS

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

13

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

19

Him! Him!

BRIDGE

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

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

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,

Holy, Holy, Holy!
 Trinity Hymnal #100

***Prayer of Adoration**

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading—Psalm 31:1-5

Into Your Hands do I Commit My Spirit

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!

Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily!

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!

For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;
you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

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— John 15:18-20

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—John 15:9

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for his abiding love and mercy!

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

*Song of Rejoicing

O The Deep, Deep, Love of Jesus

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis. Music by Thomas J. Williams. Arr. Ryan Foglesong, Patrick Anderson, and John Martin

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The guitar line includes chord diagrams and chord names (Em, B, C, Am, D) above the staff. The vocal line includes lyrics with syllables connected by lines. The lyrics are as follows:

1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus
2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus
3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus

5. Vast, un - meas - ured, bound - less to free
Spread his - praise - ured, shore - less to shore
Love of ev - ery love the best

9. Roll - ing as a migh - ty o - cean,
How he lov - eth er - ble - ss - eth,
'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing,

13. In its full - ness o - ver me,
Change - eth ne - ver, ne - ver more
'Tis a ha - ven sweet of rest

17. Un - der - neath watch - me, all a - round loved me,
How he watch - es deep, o'er his - round loved ones,
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus

21. Is the cur - rent them of thy love
Died to call them of all his own
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me

25. Lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward,
How for them he ce - ter - deth,
And it lifts me up to glor - y

29. To thy glor - ious rest a - bove
Watch eth o'er them from the throne
For it lifts me up to thee

Sacrament of Covenant Baptism

Minnow Ruth Sweet

Baptism Song

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know
Trinity Hymnal #189

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer



Tithes and Offerings

Children ages 3 (by July 31) through 1st grade are
dismissed for Children's Church to Room 106B

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



Offertory Song (Ensemble)

Though You Slay Me

Shane Barnard, Beth Barnard, Lauren Chandler, Brian Woods, and Josh Moore

Sermon

"Learning to Suffer Well"

1 Peter 4:12-19

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

***Song of Response**

It Is Well with My Soul

Trinity Hymnal #691

***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): Chenoa Pysar (please report to the toddler nursery directly following the service)

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Choir (Fireplace room)

The Trinity choir will meet during the Sunday school hour starting Aug. 31. We'll learn pieces that we'll sing in worship throughout the semester. No musical experience necessary; the only thing needed is a heart for worship and a desire to SING.

The Reformation and Why It Still Matters (Sanctuary)

General evangelicalism seems to be the flavor of the day in the modern church in that people seem to be happy to settle for theology-lite, which prompts a question: Does the Reformation and its core theological teachings still matter? Join Pastor Polski as he explores the key teachings of the Protestant Reformation and explains why they remain significant for modern believers.

Galatians-Ruling Elders, Jim Talent & Fielding Poe (Room 110)

Join us as we study the book of Galatians, with reference for context to the book of Acts. Galatians was written shortly after the historic event related in Acts 15 – the Council of Jerusalem. Galatians affirmed and explained the monumental implications of that first church council: that Christianity was not just a sect of Judaism, but a new faith, that Jesus was not just the Jewish Messiah, but the suffering servant who had died to atone for the sins of all those of every background who are called to believe in him, and that salvation was therefore always and only by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Paul wrote about that “mystery” in many of his epistles, but Galatians is his first and most passionate defense of the gospel of grace that he carried to the gentile world.”

Trinity Connect, New Members Class (Room 111)

Interested in becoming a member of Trinity Church? Or maybe you just want to learn more about our ministries or denomination. While this is the first step to becoming a member, it does not commit you to following through with membership.

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 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: Schaffer, Schlitt, Thomason, Kocher. Nursery: Elzinga, Williamson, Poe, Polski. SS: Pysar. CC: Sweet, Rosales, Hawley. **Next Sunday:** Ushers: Sweet, Heintz, Standerfer, Younger. Nursery: Linenbrokers, Thomason, Bava. SS: Pannkuk.

No Men's & Women's Bible study this week.

Our annual Christmas Craft Party is favorite of our Trinity kids and a wonderful outreach. We **need a FEW MORE volunteers and donations** to make it a success. Information and sign ups are on the table in the main hallway. You can also sign up on Church Center.

The **Christmas Craft Party for kids ages 4yrs thru 5th grade** is on Sat., Dec. 7th from 9am to 12:15pm. Registration is now open via the QR code to the right.

Our 2025-2026 Concert Series theme is "Ponder anew." You can find art displayed in the Narthex inspired by this theme. These are **original pieces created by Trinity members**. Their art causes us to consider God's goodness once again, with a sense of wonder and amazement.

Trinity's annual Christmas concert will be two nights this year! "His Name Shall Be Called" - Dec. 20 & 21 at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm for a special prelude by Concert Pianist Annie Gregurich).

Join us for our family-friendly **Service of Thanksgiving** on Wed., Nov. 26 at 5:30pm. We will give thanks through prayer, song, and personal testimonies.

This year **we are partnering with Mission Gate Ministry** to provide Christmas gifts to children with an incarcerated parent and children of local needy families. If you would like to participate, pick up a tag in the narthex, purchase a gift, wrap and attach the tag, and **return to Trinity by Dec. 7th**.

Help us deck the halls (sanctuary): Nov. 29 at 9am. We also need a couple folks willing to climb a ladder. Join us for this fun time of getting ready for Advent!

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 (James. Broughton@trinitychurchkirkwood.org),
Children's Ministry: Erin Wagberg (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:](#)



UPCOMING DATES

Nov. 23 Food Pantry donations due
Nov. 24 Robinson Food Pantry
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Service (5:30)
Nov. 29 Christmas Decorating (9am)
Nov. 30 Advent begins/No CC
Dec. 6 Christmas Craft Party
Dec. 7 Angel Tree gifts due
Dec. 7 Youth Christmas Party
Dec. 13 YA Christmas Party
Dec. 14 Congregational Meeting (SS)
Dec. 20 & 21 Christmas Concert
Dec. 24 Candlelight Service 5pm
Feb. 27-28 Women's Retreat

MISSION UPDATE

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



Prayers:

- Prayer is essential to Trinity's mission. Please see our November 2025 newsletter for ways to pray for our ministries and missionaries. Also, see our public prayer list to pray for congregational needs.

Goers:

- **Hope Presbyterian Church Plant** – Is God calling you to be part of the Hope Pres launch team in a small or large capacity? What does it mean to live your life “on mission”? A church plant is a huge undertaking and prayers, welcomers, senders, goers, and mobilizers, are all a vital part. **Please see page 4 of this month's newsletter for special prayer request.** Check the QR code for more info.

Senders:

- **Embroidered Trinity Pull-overs** – Your orders and referrals of others to Swan Graphics have helped this organization further its mission and here are just a few examples of the work they've fueled together:
 - 28 employees have been given training and employment opportunities
 - 3 past and current employees have graduated or are currently enrolled in university.
 - Started 2 economic development projects: Swan Graphics and Swan Seed Co.
 - 18 individuals have gone through Swan Training classes
 - A duplex was purchased to provide housing for employees of the businesses
- If you ordered a pullover, please come by Pastor Pablo's office and pick your order up. Make sure to sign off next to your name on the sheet.

Welcomers:

- **Thanksgiving Robinson Elementary Food Pantry** – Thank you to all who have prayed and donated items for the food pantry at Robinson. Tomorrow all of your donations will be transported to the school and distributed to our families. So thankful that the new freezer was full of turkeys! What a wonderful sight!
- **Mission Gate Angel Tree** — Once again we are partnering with Mission Gate Ministry to provide Christmas gifts to children with an incarcerated parent and children of local families in need. If you would like to participate, pick up a tag in the narthex, purchase a gift (typical price range is \$25-30), wrap and attach the tag, and return to Trinity by Dec. 7th.
 - **Tags are available Nov. 16-30th in the Narthex.**

Mobilizers:

- If you've ever thought to yourself, “I wish we could do this,” or “I wish we would do that.” Let's have a chat about Missions. Are you passionate about PowerPoint and communicating mission opportunities to the congregation? **The Mission Committee is looking for you.** Reach out to Pablo for more information.

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

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