



# TRINITY CHURCH

— KIRKWOOD —

*2 CORINTHIANS 4:5*

July 26, 2026

# WELCOME

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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.



# WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO CALLS US TO CHOOSE WISELY

(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):** Deborah Moen, Ruth Harlow, Beth Williamson

**Liturgist:** Matt Pannkuk

**Scripture Reader:** Mary Berardi

**Pastoral Prayer:** Ruling Elder, Duncan Highmark

## Welcome and Announcements

## Quotes and Reflection

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." — James 3:17

"The fear of the Lord is not merely the beginning but the essence of wisdom."  
— Herman Bavinck

"Two loves have made two cities: the love of God unto the contempt of self, and the love of self unto the contempt of God." — (Augustine, *The City of God*, XIV.28)

"Wisdom invites us into reality. Folly invites us into fantasy." — Ray Ortland

# WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

**What We're Asking for When We Pray for Wisdom** by Trevin Wax ([thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org))

A friend recently remarked that nearly every time I pray with my team or with others in partnership, I ask for wisdom. I hadn't noticed the habit until he mentioned it. But he's right. I'm constantly asking God for wisdom—for myself and for others.

Which got me thinking, *Why do I pray this way? What exactly am I asking God for?*

The Bible-minded run right to Solomon, which makes sense, since the king of Israel was affirmed by the Lord for desiring discernment. The Lord not only blessed Solomon with wisdom but also granted him the wealth and power he hadn't requested.

The proverbs of Solomon link wisdom to the fear of the Lord, and in the New Testament, the brother of Jesus reminds us heavenly wisdom leads to good conduct and works done in gentleness (James 3:13). It is "pure, . . . peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense" (v. 17, CSB).

## Why We Need Wisdom Today

It's not hard to see why we need wisdom these days. In his forthcoming book *Digital Liturgies*, Samuel James defines the essence of wisdom as "living in light of reality" and then shows how the online world can undermine wisdom by cutting us off from the world as it truly is:

*"Because wisdom is a submission to God's good and given reality, our immersion in computer and internet existence is a crisis of spiritual formation. Our digital environments dislocate us, training us to believe and feel and communicate in certain ways that our given, embodied, physical environments do not. The more immersive and ambient the technology, the more extreme this effect."*

We're experiencing an epistemological crisis, wondering what's true and how we know it to be so. Everything in our world pushes us away from cultivating habits that lead to wisdom and reflection. No wonder, then, we must pray for God to be generous with wisdom from above. We sense our need because we recognize not all the choices we make will be clear-cut or black-and-white or easily discernible decisions of faithfulness.

## Patterns of Wisdom

In *Uncommon Unity*, Richard Lints says wisdom starts with realizing "God has made the world with certain patterns and that our flourishing rests in embracing those patterns and resisting the lure of running contrary to those patterns." We must see things as *they are*. The wise don't chafe against limitation or try to remake the world in humanity's image. We're to joyfully submit to the God-given patterns in creation and then seek faithfulness within finite constraints.

Of course, the acknowledgment of creational goodness must be held together with an understanding of the fall—the world isn't the way it's supposed to be. Biblical wisdom is "able to distinguish between the goodness of the created order and the brokenness of the created order, neither naively accepting the brokenness nor becoming cynical about the loss of goodness in the world."

We don't simply accept the world as it is, shrugging off injustice or succumbing to fate. To be wise is to differentiate what's good from what's fallen, sometimes even in the same person or pattern—rarely relegating something to one category or another completely but recognizing the complexity of a broken world in need of redemption.

The wise are usually wise *everywhere*, no matter the differences on the surface. They're able to distinguish between superficial cultural elements and deep-rooted differences. They can spot underlying unity when it exists, and they also identify foundational fault lines.

## **Prayer and Practice**

Wisdom comes through prayer and practice. "It is a learned habit," Lints writes, "but there is no mechanical means to acquire it. . . . It is confidently humble and able to glean insights from a variety of diverse sources."

Unfortunately, too much that passes under the banner of "discernment" these days is a narrow focus on discerning what might be bad in something. A broader and fuller understanding of discernment enables us also to discern what's good, without adopting an openness to everything in a person or position.

The irony of casting everyone into categories of "good" or "bad" is that you no longer need to practice discernment. You wave away anyone in the "bad" category or adopt uncritically whatever comes from the "good" category. True wisdom requires us to look for truth wherever it may be found, to sift everything through the Scriptures, and to celebrate God's goodness when we see it refracted, even through broken or shattered image-bearers.

Perhaps the greatest area of need today is wisdom combined with patience. The wise don't rush to judgment but recognize "when a fuller story is needed to fill out the account." We need more cold takes instead of hot ones. The wise acknowledge the need to know how the past influences the present, and they seek to interpret someone's words or actions in the context of their circumstances, trying to understand the narrative within which someone makes sense of the world.

## **Need of the Hour**

In the end, we pray for wisdom because we have no hope of gaining wisdom on our own. Lints writes,

*"We gain wisdom when we abandon hope in ourselves and learn the habits of being interwoven with others, and especially being accepted by the Lord of the universe because of this strange reality we call grace."*

Wisdom points us to the Lord, the One who gives generously and helps us better interpret our present circumstances and guide the people whom God has placed in our path.

So . . . with Solomon, and following the instruction of James, let's keep praying for wisdom. Lord knows we need it today.

# Song of Preparation

## My Worth Is Not in What I Own

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Graham Kendrick

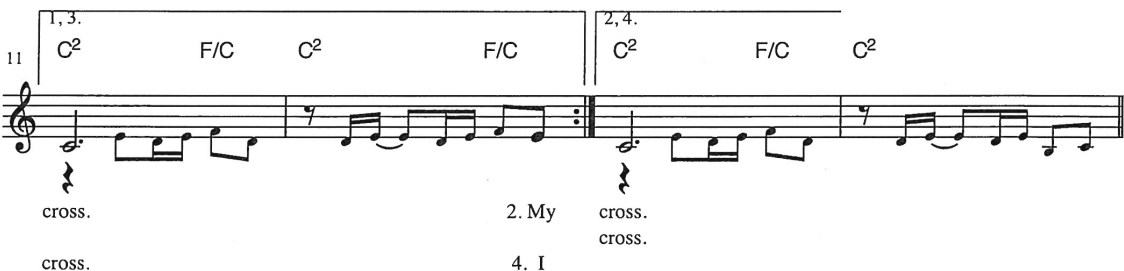
### VERSE



1. My worth is not in what I own; not  
 (2. My) worth is not in skill or name; in  
 (3. As) sum - mer flow'rs we fade and die; fame,  
 (4. I) will not boast in wealth or might, or  
 (5. Two) won - ders here that I con - fess: my



in the strength of flesh and bone. But in the cost - ly wounds of love at the  
 win or lose, in pride or shame. But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the  
 youth and beau - ty hur - ry by. But life e - ter - nal calls to us at the  
 hu - man wis - dom's fleet - ing light. But I will boast in know - ing Christ at the  
 worth and my un - wor - thi - ness. My val - ue fixed, my ran - som paid at the



### CHORUS



I re-joyce in my Re - deem - er. Great - est treas - ure, well-spring of my soul.



I will trust in Him, no oth - er; my soul is sat - is - fied in Him a -

22 C<sup>2</sup> F/C C<sup>2</sup> F/C D.S. al Coda

-lone.

24 C<sup>2</sup> F/C C

cross.

3. As  
5. Two

## Call to Worship— Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (Selected)

Leader: I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

**People:** Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.

Leader: Loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him,

**People:** For he is your life and length of days.

**All:** We come today to worship the God who alone leads us into the path of life.

Leader: O Lord, incline our hearts to wisdom and teach us to walk in your ways.

# WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

## \*Songs of Adoration

## *His Glory and My Good*

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Ben Fielding

5 Asus2 E B C#m7

seen my Fa - ther's glo - ry re - vealed in Je - sus Christ... And the  
hope in ev - 'ry tri - al for I can trust the Lord... He will

7 Asus2 E B C#m7

more that I be - hold Him, the more He sat - is - fies... When I  
turn my heart to - wards Him and help me bare the thorn... So in

9 Asus2 E B C#m7

gaze u - pon His beau - ty, when I see Him as I should then my  
faith I fol - low Je - sus on the road not un - der - stood... For I

11 Asus2 E/G# B

eyes are lift - ed up - ward for His glo - ry and my  
know that He is work - ing for His glo - ry and my

13 1. Asus2 E B C#m7

good. There is

15 2. E5 Esus

good. To our

17 CHORUS E A E C#m7

God be the glo - ry, to our God be praise. He a - lone, the name a - bove all

20 B E/G# A C#m7 To Coda

names. I will boast ev - er on - ly in the Lord my God, for I

15 2. E5 Esus  
good. To our

17 CHORUS E A E C#m7  
God be the glo - ry, to our God be praise. He a - lone, the name a - bove all

20 B E/G# A C#m7 To Coda  
names. I will boast ev - er on - ly in the Lord my God, for I

23 A B Asus2 E  
know His glo - ry is my good.

25 VERSE 3 B C#m7 Asus2 E  
See the o - pen arms of Je - sus u -

27 B C#m7 Asus2 E  
pon the cross that day. What they un - der - stood as weak - ness de -

29 B C#m7 Asus2 E  
serves my ev - 'ry praise. For the charge that was a - gainst me, it was

31 B C#m7 Asus2 E/G#  
nailed in - to the wood. Yes, I know that He has saved me for His

33 B E D.S. al Coda  
glo - ry and my good. To our

**CODA**

35 A B A E/G#

know His glo - ry is my good.

*sing 1st time only*

INSTRUMENTAL

37 C#m7 B A E/G#

39 1. C#m7 B 2. B

Would I

41 VERSE 4 Aadd2 E/G# Badd4/F# E/G#

glad - ly be made noth - ing that Christ would be made more. Would I

43 Aadd2 E/G# Badd4/F# E/G#

seek the on - ly king - dom that far out - weighs them all. I will

45 Aadd2 E Badd4 C#m7

stand be - fore my Fa - ther where the faith - ful saints have stood and with

47 Aadd2 E/G# Badd4 C#m7 Bsus

joy my heart shall praise Him for His glo - ry and my good. And with

49 Aadd2 E/G# Badd4

joy my heart shall praise Him for His glo - ry and my

51 E

good. To our

# Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

Matt Boswell & Matt Papa



1. You made the star - ry host, You traced the moun - tain peaks, You paint the eve - ning skies with  
 2. Let sym - pho - nies re - sound, let drums and choirs rung out, all heav - en hear the sound of  
 3. You spoke in - to the dark, the si - lence of the womb, and wove a liv - ing soul to -



won - der. The earth, it is Your throne, from des - ert to the sea; all na - ture test - i - fies Your  
 wor - ship. Let eve - ry na - tion bring its hon - ors to the King; a roar of har - mo - nies e -  
 - geth - er. A life, a beat - ing heart; Lord, I was made for You. Your glo - ry to re - store for -



splen - dor.  
 - ter - nal. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, all cre - a - tion sing His prais - es, praise the Lord, raise your  
 - ev - er.



voice, you heights and all you depths, from furth - est east to west, let eve - ry - thing that has breath praise the



Lord!

2. Let west, you dis - tant burn - ing stars, all crea - tures near and  
 3. You



far, from sky to sea to shore, sing out for ev - er - more, let eve - ry - thing that has breath praise the Lord!

## \*Prayer of Adoration

# WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

## Scripture Reading—Luke 14:15-24

### *The Parable of the Great Banquet*

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

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— Proverbs 14:12**

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

### **Silent Confession and Lament**

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

### **Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace— John 6:40**

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Leader: People of God, give thanks that God for calling us to the banquet of His Son!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

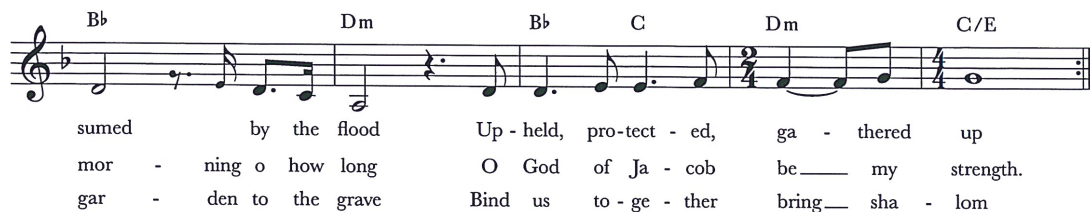
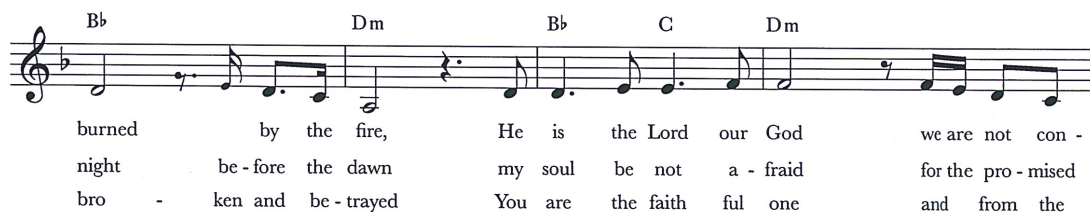
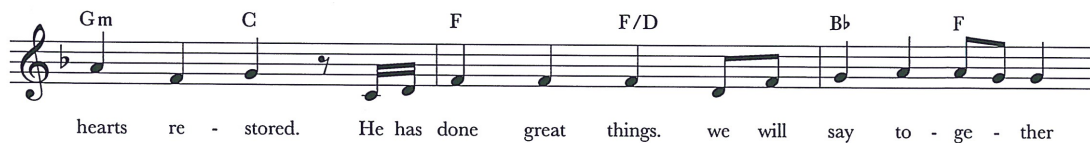
Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

**People: And also with you!**

# \*Song of Rejoicing

## We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore



# 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:*



## Sermon

"Two Paths...One Way"

Proverbs 9:1-18

Sermon Series on the Book of Proverbs

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

# \*Song of Response

# Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, and Rich Thompson. Arr. by Dan Galbraith



What gift of grace is Je sus my Re - deem - er There is no  
The night is dark, but I am not for - sak - en. for by my  
No fate I dread, I know I am for - giv - en, the fu - ture  
With ev - 'ry breath I long to fol - low Je - sus, for he has  
more for heav - en now to give. He is my joy. my right-eous-ness and  
side the Sav - ior, he will stay. I la - bor on in weak-ness and re -  
sure, the price, it has been paid. For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my  
said that he will bring me home. And day by day I know he will re -  
free - dom, my stead-fast love, my deep and bound - less peace. To this I  
joic - ing, for in my need, His pow - er is dis-played. To this I  
par - don, and he was raised to o - ver-throw the grave. To this I  
new me un - til I stand with joy be - fore the throne. To this I  
hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus. For my life is whol - ly bound to  
hold: my Shep-herd will de - fe - nd me, Through the deep - est val - ly he will  
hold: my sin has been de - feat - ted. Je - sus now, and ev - er, is my  
hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus. All the glo - ry ev - er - more to  
his. Oh how strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not  
lead. Oh the night has been won and I shall o - ver-come! Yet not  
plea. Oh the chains are re - leased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not  
him. When the race is com-plete, still my lips shall re - peat: Yet not  
I, but through Christ in me.  
I, but through Christ in me.  
I, but through Christ in me.  
I, but through Christ in me.

## \*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.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**The elementary Sunday school is on hiatus** to give our volunteers a little break. A Jr. High-adult Sunday school on Christian Spiritual Formation meets in room 110 led by Pastor Polski.

**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: Roberts, Wong, Maglione, Brown. Nursery: Moen, Harlow, Williamson. CC: Standerfer, Goldstein. **Next Sunday:** Ushers: Schaffer, Schlitt, Thomason, Roberts. Nursery: Carcamo, Martir, Poe, Linenbroker. CC: Doiron, Polski, Thomason.

Next Sunday, **Aug. 2nd is our final Community Sunday Potluck for the summer.** These are an opportunity to share food, and good times together. Bring a dish (no-dessert) that serves 8-10. Water, juice boxes, chips, cookies, plates and utensils provided. You may want to bring a blanket or lawn chair if eating outside.

**Young Adult Small Group:** Join us on the 4th Fri. of the month at Trinity from 6-7:30pm (childcare available). See Abby or Jackson Roberts for details.

**Jr. & Sr. High** will NOT meet this Wed. due to the Puerto Rico mission trip.

**Ladies Connect:** Mon., Aug. 10th at 6:30pm at Mickie Schmidt's home.

**Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for a few helpers on Sundays: Coffee, putting out snacks, and greeting at the Welcome Table. See Amy Mitchell if willing to help.

**Have you ever thought about singing or playing an instrument with our church's ensemble team?** You're invited to an informational meeting on Sunday, August 9, immediately following the worship service (11:00 a.m.) in the Fireplace Room.

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:](#)



## UPCOMING DATES

Jul. 25-31 Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Jul. 29 No Youth Group

Aug. 1 Play Date

Aug. 2 Community Sun. Potluck Lunch

Aug. 9 Ensemble Informational Meeting

Aug. 10 Ladies Connect @ Mickie's 6:30

Aug. 11 Youth to Cards Game

Aug. 17 Women's Book Discussion

Aug. 26 Women's Bible Studies begin

Aug. 28 Young Adult Small Group

Sept. 6 Sunday School Resumes

Sept. 12 Men's Breakfast 8-9:30am

Sept. 19 Party on the Lawn

**Local Mission News**  
**Featuring FirstLight**  
**Rev. Sean Maney, Executive Director**

FirstLight is a St. Louis-based ministry that is dedicated to sexual integrity and helping people live a life according to God's standards on sexuality.

We work with men and women for as long as it takes to help them develop healthier and holier ways of living that restores them to a life of joy and abundance.

While our program is much more intensive than most, the effects are much more profound and long-lasting. Thankfully, due to the support of our many donors, we can provide a level of service that is comparable to in-patient clinical programs but offer it at the community support level and for minimal cost to participants.

**DISCIPLESHIP MODEL:**

As a Christian ministry, our ultimate mandate is given to us by Jesus Christ to go and make disciples of him (Matthew 28:19-20). As such, it is important for us to help people understand that their reason for turning away from sexual sin is not only about helping them be healthier or to improve their relationships with spouse.

It is foremost about helping them glorify God.

As the Apostle Paul writes, we are all to “glorify God in our bodies” (1 Corinthians 11:7). At FirstLight, participants are not only educated about techniques for stopping unwanted sexual behavior or on how to heal their marriage after sexual betrayal. All participants are led into God’s word to see God’s love for them, how we are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, and what this means not only for our sexual recovery but for living a life that allows us to better glorify God and enjoy him forever.

FirstLight Ministries, PO Box 32033, St. Louis, MO 63132

[Firstlightstlouis.org](http://Firstlightstlouis.org) or [office@firstlightstlouis.org](mailto:office@firstlightstlouis.org)

### CATECHISM QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**Q. 90.** How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

**A.** For the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must pay attention to it with diligence, preparation and prayer, we must receive it with faith and love, we must lay it up in our hearts, and we must practice it in our lives.

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)

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