

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

February 23, 2020 The Seventh Sunday of Epiphany

Visiting with us today?

We are glad you are here! We would love to reach out to you (not in a nagging way) this week. Please fill out a card in the seat pockets and place in the offering basket or hand to an usher or pastor, or text your name to: **314-384-2444**.

We are happy your little ones are here too. They are welcome throughout the worship service, but if you prefer we offer:

- Nursery care for children 6 weeks through pre-school age.
- Children's Church gathers in the 1st & 2nd gr. classroom (room 111) during the offering for ages 4yrs through 2nd grade (and stays there for the remainder of the service).
- The worship service is streamed to the Fireplace Room for nursing moms.

WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO BINDS US TOGETHER IN CHRIST JESUS

Liturgist: Rev. Aaron Goldstein

Pastoral Prayer: Ruling Elder, Tom Schmidt

Scripture Reader: Ella Polski

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Quotes and Reflections

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! — Psalm 133:1

"Unity must be ordered according to God's holy word, or else it were better war than peace." — Hugh Latimer

"We cannot expect the world to believe that the Father sent the Son, that Jesus' claims are true and that Christianity is true, unless the world sees some reality on the oneness of true Christians." — Francis Schaeffer

WE READY OURSELVES TO WORSHIP

Reflect quietly and prayerfully on these words as we prepare to enter into worship.

This past week I attended a meeting of our presbytery that was convened to deal with a particularly painful season in the life of one of our local churches. The meeting was not easy, in fact, it was very hard and though I left believing that the right thing had been done I still felt a sense of grief over the whole situation.

Let's be honest, sometimes being a church can be hard because when we are actively involved in a local church we are pressing our lives up against the lives of other people who, like us, have their own sins and weaknesses and struggles and fears and when you match up one sinner with another in close quarters, the opportunity for difficulty multiplies.

So, what do we do with this?

Some people, not wanting to have to deal with the messes that can be present in churches, effectively quit the church and act like its perfectly fine to be a church unto themselves so long as they still listen to good sermons online and read good Christian books and do their devotions.

But is that really correct? Is it possible that the Lord, knowing that the church is going to be filled with sinners, actually wants us to press in to each other's lives?

Why would He want this? Could it be because he wants us to learn about and practice grace? And is it possible that he wants us to do this because that's exactly what he did for us and that by being compelled to regularly do this for each other is the most poignant, most powerful, and most effective lesson in the sharpening of our own faith?

What do you think?

In today's text Jesus is praying for all those people, including you and me, who would one day become believing members of His church. Let's pray that our hearts are open to the truth He gives us.

Song of Preparation

I Need Thee Every Hour Trinity Hymnal #674 (vv. 1, 3, 5)

*Call to Worship—Psalm 119 (selected)

Leader: Teach us, O Lord, the way of your statutes; Give us

understanding, that we may keep your law and

observe it with our whole heart.

People: Your testimonies are our delight; they are our

counselors.

Leader: Confirm to your servants your promise, that you may

be feared.

People: O Lord, you are our portion;

Leader: Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord, your

salvation according to your promise;

People: Blessed are you, O Lord!

"Though nothing can add to God's essential glory, our praise exalts him in the eyes of others." — T. Watson

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Trinity Hymnal #457

Behold Our God

Words and Music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge



*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading—Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-8

The Lord describes the shape of holiness in community

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

"You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

"You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of

the Lord stands forever!

People: Amen!

WE CONFESS OUR UTTER UNWORTHINESS BEFORE GOD

Call to Confession—Matthew 5:38-42

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you."

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Titus 3:4-7

Friends, hear the good news! "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

[&]quot;Stayed upon Jehovah hearts are fully blessed, finding as he promised, perfect peace and rest."— F. Havergal

*Song of Rejoicing

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

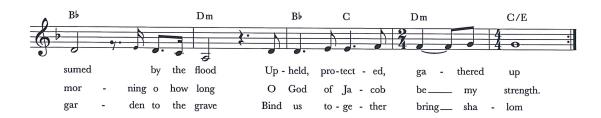
Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore











WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(Children ages 4yr to 2nd grade may be excused for Children's Church in the1st/2nd grade classroom.)

Offertory Song (Ensemble)

The Love of the Father

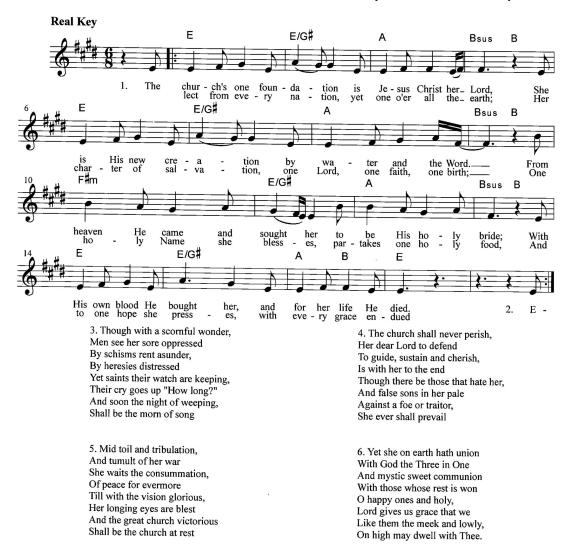
Words and Music by James Ferguson and Rich Thompson

Sermon

"Jesus Prays for the Church" John 17:20-26 Rev. Chris Polski

*Song of Response The Church's One Foundation (vv. 1, 2, 5, 6)

Words by Samuel Stone. Music by Brian Moss



*Benediction

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School Class

Join Pastor Polski for a SS series on the integrity of Holy Scripture. During this series we will examine the origins of the Bible, how it came together as one grand document and why we can believe that the Bible is exactly what it says it is, God's perfect and fully trustworthy word to mankind.

Children/Youth Sunday School

Classes	
Pre K & K	Jessica Doiron, Michelle Goldstein, Melissa Jorgensen,
	Melissa Kocher
1st & 2nd grade	Mimi Steele, Sue Freeman, Beth Kling, Janice Koch
3rd, 4th & 5th grade	Gary & Patty Peterson, Bill & Laurel Elzinga, Scott & Amy
_	Mitchell

Jr. High Foundations Class

This spring semester in our jr high Sunday school class, we will be studying the Gospel of Mark along with the resource, Mark: The Gospel-Centered Life for Students by John Perritt. We will learn about the life and teachings of the authoritative Son of God, Jesus, through interactive discussion and engaging activities like Jeopardy!

Sr. High Formations Class

This semester the sr. high will be studying the Old Testament Book of 1 Samuel, and will focus on uncovering the pattern of God's faithfulness. We will look at how seeing this pattern builds and encourages our faith today.

These are just announcement highlights. If you'd like to know more about Trinity, connect with us in one of the following ways...

• 314/821-7311 • www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org • Facebook: Trinity Church Kirkwood Worship and General Church Information

- Sunday school classes for all ages meet today.
- Volunteers next week: Nursery: Mitchell, Poe, Sinclair, Kling. SS: Polski, Kwong, Petty.
 Ushers: Roberts, O'Neal, Lackey, Maglione. Welcome team: Goldstein, Thomason,
 Highmark.
- Ladies Connect: TOMORROW at 7:30pm at Mickie Schmidt's. Come out for a relaxing evening with friends. Beverages provided, but feel free to bring a snack to share.
- Men's Bible Study meets this Friday at 6:30am. The men are studying the Book of Judges on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Friday of each month.
- Women's Bible Study: The Tues. study will continue their look at the Psalms THIS Tues. at 7pm at Melissa Jorgensen's home. The Wed. morning group meets weekly to study the Book of Galatians. It isn't too late to join either study!
- Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office if you need help setting it up.
- **Scripture Readers** needed for Sunday mornings March through May. Please see the sign up sheet in the hallway.
- If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.
- Volunteers needed to help in the Robinson Elementary Food Pantry. See Nate Taylor or your weekly emails to sign up.
- Does your family enjoy the Sunday snacks? If so, please consider signing up to bring a snack on a future Sunday. See Amy Mitchell or your weekly email.
- Calling all 4th-6th graders! It is time to sign up for Camp Strong. April 17-19th. Sign up here: tiny.cc/4nsjiz.
- Choral Ensemble will be singing for BOTH Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Save the date for the rehearsals: Wednesdays, March 25th, and April 1st and 8th from 6-7pm.
- We are hoping to have a good group of Trinity ladies (and friends) attend the **Gospel Coalition Women's Conference** on Jun. 11-13th in Indianapolis. If you are interested in going, please contact Amy Mitchell. Scholarships and financial aid available.
- Trinity Jr. & Sr. High, come out for the annual murder mystery party. "Death at the Disco" will take place on Sat., Mar. 7th at 6:30pm. RSVP by Feb. 2nd to Ben to receive your character and get more details. Friends are always welcome!

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