

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

November 22, 2020

WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO LOVES LIFE

Liturgist: Rev. Nate Taylor

Scripture Reader: Lori Nichols and Tom Schmidt

Pastoral Prayer: Ruling Elder, Bill Elzinga

Quotes and Reflections

"God alone made life so God alone can tell us its meaning." — J.I. Packer

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. — Gen. 2:7

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. — John 3:16

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. — Galatians 2:20

"Be such a person, and live such a life, that if every person were such as you, and every life a life like yours, this earth would be God's paradise."

— Philips Brooks

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

WE READY OURSELVES TO WORSHIP

<u>True Worship</u>, <u>Brotherly Peace</u> by Ray Ortlund (https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/ray-ortlund/true-worship-brotherly-peace/)

"Why did God reject Cain's worship? Cain was worshiping the one true God, not an idol. Did Cain just choose the wrong item on the menu – the fruit of the ground instead of the firstborn of the flock? We can picture the scene. Cain builds his altar and prepares his offering, and Abel does the same. Each one places his gift on his altar. But God ignores Cain and directs all his favor toward Abel, and Cain feels overlooked and hurt. But God had a reason for passing Cain by. What was it?

"Some argue that Cain's offering failed because it wasn't a blood sacrifice, and only bloodshed can atone for sin (Hebrews 9:22)...but Leviticus chapter 2 clearly authorizes grain offerings. So, Cain's offering of the fruit of the ground wasn't the problem.

"The fact that we cannot see, in the biblical text, why God rejected Cain is the point. The difference between Cain and Abel was not visible. But God did see something. There is a hint in verses 3-4: 'In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.'

"Cain offered some of his harvest, but Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and their fat portions too – the tastiest parts. In fact, the translation by the Jewish Publication Society reads, 'and Abel . . . brought the choicest of the firstlings of his flock.' In other words, Cain threw a tip on the table, but Abel gave his best. Cain gave out of his income, but Abel gave out of his capital. Cain made a gesture of thanks, but Abel risked his future growth potential by giving God some of his breeding stock. The difference between these two men was tokenism versus love, and God took it seriously.

"From the beginning God's people have been set apart by their wholehearted worship, setting no preconditions on God, but offering themselves as living sacrifices for his glory. The apostle John in the New Testament takes the next step. Wholehearted worship of God also changes how we treat one another: 'This is the message that we have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's were righteous' (1 John 3:11-12). What happened back in Genesis 4 was the beginning of every church split, every act of persecution, every word of gossip, every tactic for undermining a devoted Christian.

"We should not be like Cain. He was of the evil one. He hated his brother Abel, because Abel was a living reproach to his own hypocrisy. But those who truly love God also love one another. The vertical and the horizontal always connect."

Song of Preparation

What Wondrous Love Is This Trinity Hymnal #261

*Call to Worship—Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the

Lord with gladness!

People: We will come into his presence with singing!

Leader: Know that the Lord, he is God!

People: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his

people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with

praise!

People: We will give thanks to him; bless his name!

All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures

forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

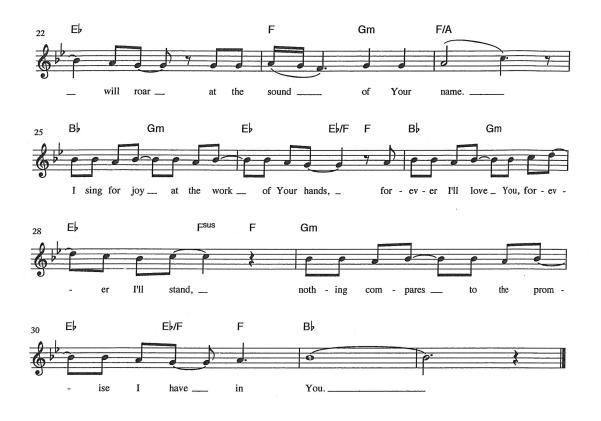
Words by William Kethe and Thomas Ken. Music by Louis Bourgeois and Dan Kreider



Shout to the Lord

Words and Music by Darlene Zschech





*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading—Ephesians 1:15-23

The great and mighty work of Jesus among us

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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—Matthew 25:31-40

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Col. 1:13-15

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Leader: Church of Christ, give thanks to God for delivering us

into His kingdom!

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

*Song of Rejoicing

want_

live

to

Jesus, Thank You

Pat Sczebel



for

"Abounding sin is the terror of the world, but abounding grace is the hope of mankind!" — A.W. Tozer

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Children may be dismissed for Children's Church (8:45 service only)

Offertory Song (Ensemble)

He Is Among Us

Orlando Palmer, Isaac Wardell, Paul Zach, John Swinton, Andy Piercy

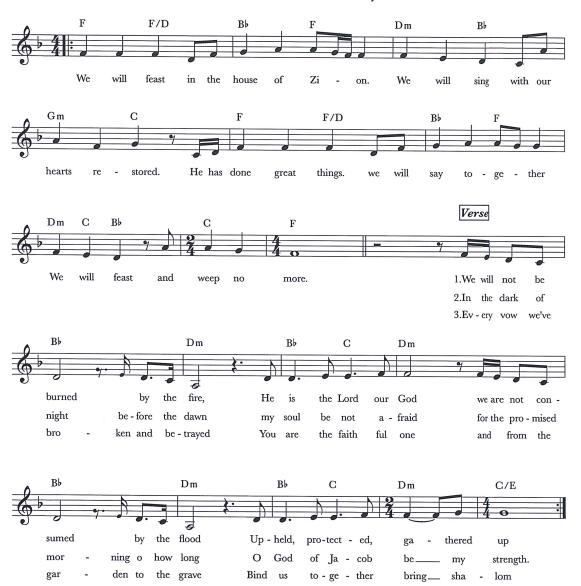
Sermon

"Beware, Sin is Crouching at Your Door" Genesis 4:1-16 Rev. Chris Polski

*Song of Response

He Will Hold Me Fast

Words and Music by Ada Habershon and Matthew Merker



*Benediction

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

Please look for communication mid-week about ongoing activities at church. We will let you know if there is a change to any of the activities below.

- Pastor Polski is sharing a **Sunday school series** on the Apostle's Creed on our Trinity Church Kirkwood Facebook page.
- Volunteers next Sunday: Ushers: A. Mitchell, Brumley, Boehne, Thomason, Hendricks, Harrison. Scripture Readers: Amy Mitchell and Kathy O'Neal.
- Make plans to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Service on Wed., Nov. 25th at 5:30pm.
- Small Groups are a great way to get connected. For more information pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center.
- No Men's or Women's Bible study this week. All will resume the first week of December.
- 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 for assistance.
- If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.
- Save the Date: For a special evening of Christmas music and poetry-Sat., Dec. 12th at 7pm. RSVP will be required (opening at the beginning of Dec.).
- There are several easy ways to serve at Trinity. Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators if you would like to get involved: Ushers: Josh Hendricks (coachjph@msn.com), Children's Church: Melissa Kocher (medcalf.melissa@gmail.com), Greeters: Elisa Tharp (elisa.f.tharp@gmail.com), Nursery: Sarah Oehlerking, Deborah Moen, Alyssa Hall, and Ruth Harlow (nursery@trinitystlouis.org), Sunday coffee: Amy Mitchell (amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org)
- •Feeling festive? Come help us decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas THIS Sat., Nov. 28th at 9am. Please see Amy Mitchell if you are interested.
- The Session wishes to invite the congregation to our **annual meeting of the congregation/ corporation on Sun., Dec. 20th at 5:30pm via Zoom or in-person**. At this meeting we will review the budget, elect officers, and review 2020.
- This year we will offer **two services on Christmas Eve: 4pm and 5:30pm**. Both services will be the same with the exception that the 4pm service will include a children's sermon.

Trinity's ministries are organized around the core values in purpose statement which reads: Trinity Church exists to exal name, establish God's people, equip God's church and er God's world, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake Risen King, Jesus Christ.	lt God's ngage