

TRINITY CHURCH

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

August 22, 2021



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WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO HOLDS HIS PEOPLE TOGETHER

Liturgist: Rev. Ben Tharp Scripture Reader: Lily Polski Pastoral Prayer: J Harrison, Ruling Elder

Quotes and Reflections

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. — I Corinthians 1:2-3

All saints that are united to Jesus Christ their head by His Spirit and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection and glory. And being united to one another in love they have communion in each other's gifts and graces; and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man. — WCF 26.1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP Church, Don't Let Coronavirus Divide You- Bret McCracken (Abridged from Gospel Coalition)

For church leaders and elder boards everywhere, the last few months have presented a near-constant array of complex challenges related to shepherding a church during the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest complex challenge is perhaps the trickiest yet: how to prudently resume in-person gatherings. In such a precarious and polarizing environment, how can churches move forward in beautiful unity (Ps. 133) rather than ugly division?

Countercultural Sacrifice

At a time when self-idolatry is being exposed in ugly ways, the church has an opportunity to model love that places the interests of others above the self. Even if you personally think it is silly, or even cowardly, for someone to stay home even after the church is open again on Sundays, can you not heed Paul's wisdom in Romans 14: "Let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother"? Likewise, those who think the lockdowns should continue should not pass judgment on those who question the wisdom of the government's ongoing restrictions. Churches should strive to honor people on both sides of the spectrum.

Countercultural Humility

Have you noticed how remarkably *confident* so many of us are in our views right now? We could all use a bit more humility, and the church should lead the way. As much as ever before, Christians should follow the advice of James to be "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (1:19). Listening well may slow down the process of deliberation and planning, but it is worth it. No one of us should assume we've arrived at the definitive answer on how to do this well. Let's model humility by acknowledging that <u>everything is *not* obvious</u>, and we are all just trying to do the best we can in this "build the plane in midair" moment.

Countercultural Patience

Patience is one of the rarest virtues in today's insta-everything world. And yet patience has rarely been more needed. To be sure, it is good and right to be eager to gather again as churches. We should take Hebrews 10:25 seriously when it says we ought not neglect meeting together. We should feel the ache of what is lost when we only meet virtually, and every Christian should long for the day when "church on Zoom" gives way to "church in a room." That day will come. But we should be careful to not rush it. We should be careful to not go faster than governments allow, or faster than those in our community can understand. We should be patient with a timeline that might be slower than we'd prefer; patient with a reopening process that will doubtless be clunky; patient with leaders feeling the pressure of this complex situation; and patient with one another as we figure out the new normal.

Countercultural Nuance

We live in an *un*-nuanced age. But if churches are going to emerge from this crisis with unity and fellowship intact, we must embrace the countercultural path of nuance. It's the path that avoids ALL CAPS hysteria of every extreme sort, recognizing that truth is rarely as simple and shrill as Twitter would have us think. It's the path that prizes *both* courage and prudence, and avoids *both* pollyannaish and doomsday responses. It means we can be skeptical of some aspects of the lockdown without resorting to outrageous conspiracy theories, and we can honor governing authorities (Rom. 13) while engaging them in civil pushback when necessary. Countercultural nuance avoids thinking the worst of people and concedes that the other side of a debate is sometimes right, just as we are sometimes wrong. Nuance often results when humility and patience combine.



Call to Worship—Psalm 84

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

People: My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;

Leader: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

People: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Leader: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

All: O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

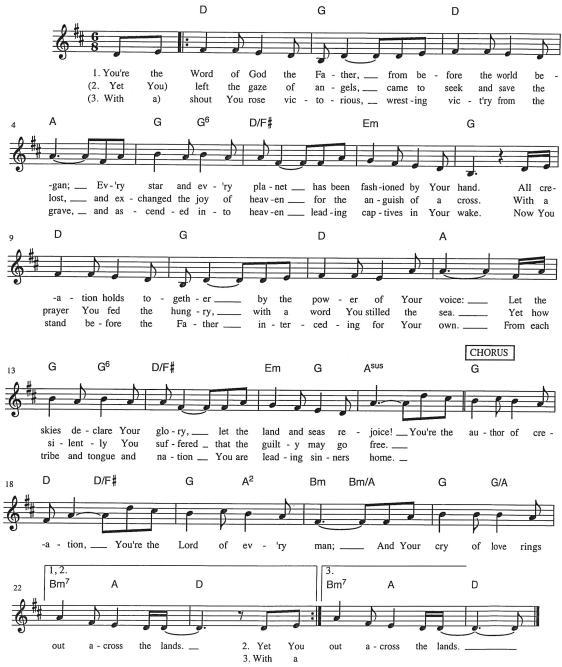
WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

O Worship the King Trinity Hymnal #2 (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)

Across the Lands

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend



^{*}Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD Old Testament Reading—Psalm 133

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Testimony

Mr. James Broughton

WE CONFESS OUR UTTER UNWORTHINESS BEFORE GOD

Call to Confession—1 Peter 3:8-9

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for His steadfast love!

People: Thanks be to God!

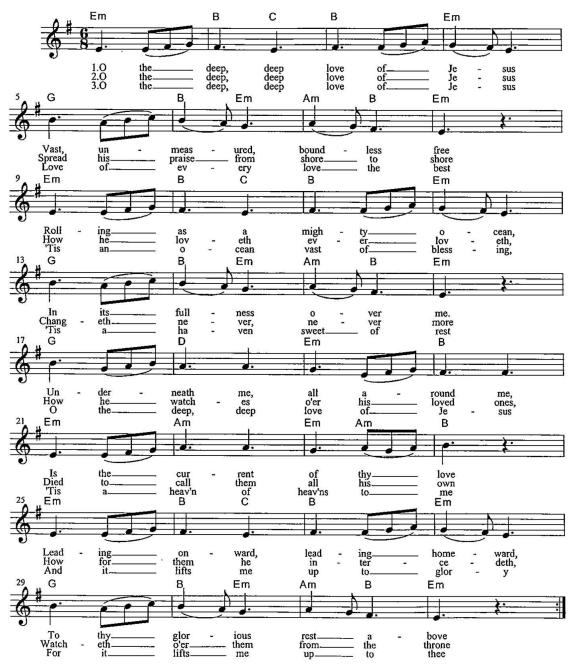
Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

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. by Ryan Foglesong, Patrick Anderson and John Martin



WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(Children ages 4yr to 2nd grade may be excused for Children's Church)





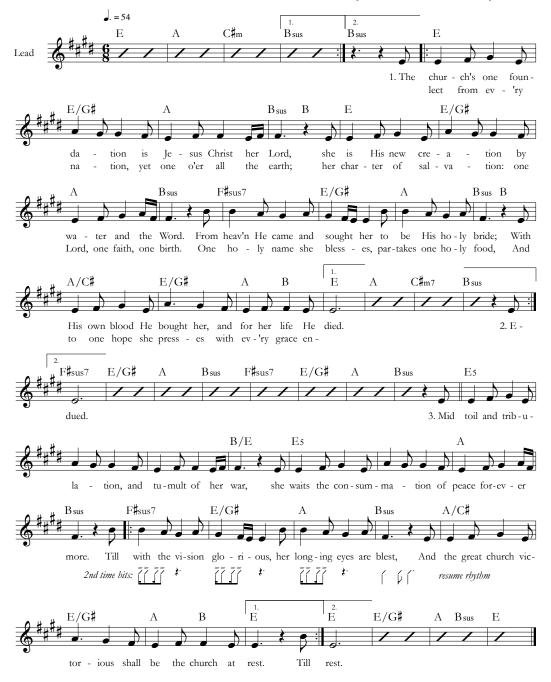
Sermon

"The Unity of the Church" The Second in a Six Part Series on Covenant Renewal Acts 2:1-13 Dr. Aaron Goldstein Assistant Professor of Old Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary

*Song of Response

The Church's One Foundation

Words by Samuel Stone. Music by Brian Moss



*Benediction

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday school is on Summer hiatus and will return for all ages on Sept. 12.

Children's Church is in need of four additional volunteers who could serve once a month, rotating teaching duties with the second volunteer in the classroom. All lessons and materials are prepared and in the classroom prior to your assigned Sunday. Children's Church meets year-round. See Melissa Kocher or Pastor Ben if you are interested.

The Children's Sunday school ministry is looking for more teachers. See Carrie Harrison or Sue Freeman for more info.

Women's Ministry Fall Kick-Off-Friday, Aug. 27th from 7-8:30pm. Dessert contest, laughter, fellowship, and more!

The **Men's & Women's Bible Studies** are taking a short break for the Summer. The Women will have two studies beginning in September. Sign ups for both are now open on Church Center (events page-see QR code below). The Men will have the option of attending on Wed. evenings or Friday mornings at 6:30am.

Party on the Lawn on Sat., Sept. 25 from 4:30-7pm. Sign up today using the QR code below.

Ladies Connect will meet at Laumeier Park on Mon., Aug. 23rd at 6:30pm. No need to sign up, just come and enjoy!

You can **sign up for all upcoming events** by scanning your phone camera over the QR code and then following the link:



If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.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 (PaulSchaffer1012@gmail.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).

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.

ACTION

All Church Things In One Night

Trinity Church's Wednesday night intergenerational dinner and ministry will run from September thru November and January thru May each year. ACTION ministry is scheduled to begin on Wednesday night, September 1st from 5:30-7pm. Along with dinner this ministry will include something for all ages. Sign up using the QR code below:



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.

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