

Queer-led Worship

Taizé Around the Cross

a candlelight service of song and prayer



January 6, 2022 – 6:30 PM

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

SERVING TODAY

Leading

Leading and Preaching

Patrick Preacher*

Piano and Cantor

Jonathan Preacher*

Light Bearers

Jimmy Reynolds*

Ric Smith*

Christy Strouse*

Supporting

Audio

Henry Wilcox

Greg Alley

**member of the LGBTQIA+ community*

This evening's worship service is sponsored by the *Growing in God's Mission Grant*, a program of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Special thanks to members of Trinity's Queer Faith Advisory Committee for all their help and support as we begin this new journey together.

PrideLink: Ethan Johnstone

864Pride: Jaime Fivecoat, Spencer Beeson, Joshua Crocker

Amaryllis Counseling: Liz Serricchio, Laura Davis

Trinity Lutheran Church: Pastor Susan Crowell, Patrick Preacher

WORDS OF WELCOME

PROCESSION OF LIGHT

Please stand as able

Once the light bearers have placed the four pillar candles on the cross, worshippers may make their way to the cross to light their candle. Take the light from one of the four pillar candles to light your candle. Place your candle on the cross as a symbol of your prayer. Music will continue until everyone has had an opportunity to light their candle.

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in shadows.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

***Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. *Refrain*

GREETING

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let anyone with ears listen! The voice of God is calling, naming us all: gay, beautiful, lesbian, holy, bisexual, cherished, transgender, beloved, queer, marvelous, intersex, wonderful, asexual, adored, allies, righteous.

Blessed be God who sees us, knows us, and loves us.

In the image of yourself, O God, you created us and called us good. Your likeness is found in all the parts of us. In the abundance of our diversity we see the abundance of your grace. Together we reject all words and actions that harm, belittle, isolate, or persecute any of your beloved children. And so together, in your name we proclaim:

Sacred are our bodies. You call every size and ability, every color and every age beautiful.

Blessed are our sexualities. As expansive as you, they draw us towards many kinds of love.

Beloved is every gender: conforming and not, trans and cis, all shades in-between reveal you in your infinite glory.

We praise God, our magnificent creator. She blesses us with these bodies. He blesses us with this world. They bless us all and call us very good.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy Christ, our Promised One:

In the bleakness of the darkest night, you shined your light to guide those who dared to follow. That night they saw your face in the form of the Christ child. Tonight we remember that light because it has never stopped shining. Shine bright, oh Christ, to remind us you are the star we have been searching for. Shine bright so that the entire world will know you shine for all people. We are seekers seeking a glimmer of hope. We seek a path forward. That glimmer of hope which once guided the magi continues to call to us today. Strengthen us on our journey towards your star, knowing that there we will find something world-changing. Constantly remind us that your light is for us all, though the world may try to hoard it. Give us our share of your light. Encourage us to share our light so that all may be brightened by its glory, knowing that the light shining within us is you.

Amen

Please be seated

GOOD NEWS

A reading from the book of Psalms:

Psalm 139:7-12

Where could I run from your Spirit?
Where could I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you're there;
If I make my bed in Death, you're already there.
I could fly away with wings made of dawn,
Or make my home on the far side of the sea,
but even there your hand will guide me,
your mighty hand holding me fast.
If I say, "The darkness will hide me,
and night will be my only light,"
even darkness won't be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day –
darkness and light are the same to you.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

Come, Light of God

Commaunitaé de Grandchamp

Worshippers are invited to sing gently while relaxing into the peace and comfort of the chant. The chant will be sung for an undetermined number of repetitions. The ringing of prayer bells will signal the final iteration of the chant.

Come, Light of God

Communauté de Grandchamp

Come light, light of God, give light to cre-a - tion, en - light - en our hearts, and re -

main with your world.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child lay. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another route.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

MEDITATION

Patrick Preacher

Silent Reflection

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leaning In – Sung Prayers of Intention

Christopher Grundy

The cantor introduces the refrain and will sing each petition. Worshippers are invited to join singing the refrain without introduction after each prayer petition.

Refrain

All - our hearts and minds are lean-ing in - with clear in - ten-tion

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join - ing in your way of love in the world.

We pray for the lonely ones, knowing that some of us are lonely.

And we pray for the heartbroken ones, knowing that some of us are heartbroken. **Refrain**

We pray for the wounded ones knowing that some of us are wounded.

And we pray for the regretful ones knowing that some of us are regretful. **Refrain**

We pray for the starving ones, knowing that some of us are starving.

And we pray for the imprisoned ones, knowing that some of us are imprisoned. **Refrain**

We pray for the queer ones, knowing that some of us are queer.

And we pray, for the transgender ones, knowing that some of us are in transition. **Refrain**

We pray for the dying ones, knowing that some of us are dying.

And we pray for the newly born ones, knowing that some of us are arriving. **Refrain**

Amen.

HEALING PRAYER

As we gather together around this cross and in this light, we acknowledge the universe is overflowing with a spirit, a Christ, a truth, a light which cannot be overcome or ignored.

Together, being led by queer people, we celebrate and acknowledge that this spirit, Christ, truth, and light dwells within all people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, color, or status.

In the Christian tradition, we share this spirit with each other and communicate to God together through prayer for one another. The power of prayer resides within all of God's creation.

Tonight instead of being prayed against, queers will do the praying for.

Come, you who yearn for hope and healing in the world.

Come kneel, you who wait to see justice and truth.

Come, you who yearn for the well-being of your body, mind, or spirit.

Come kneel, you who yearn for the health of a loved one.

With your praise and petitions, come.

With your hurts and your joys, come.

When the music begins, join us in prayerful meditation as we create together a space for healing and love. Our bodies, our hearts, our minds all become part of your prayer to God who always hears and see us.

Let us join together in singing. Come to the kneelers as you feel drawn.

Those who desire to receive prayer are asked to come and take a place at one of the two kneelers. You may share any specific prayers with the leader or simply receive the healing prayer.

*Healing prayer
Spirit of the living God, present with us now,
Enter you – body, mind, spirit –
And heal you of all that harms you,
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

GATHERING OF PRAYERS

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.

**We give you thanks, O God,
that you have come to heal us,
and have called us to bring healing to the world around us.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may be faithful to your call
and grateful for your power.
Grant us the courage to shine your light brightly into the world.
Grant us the strength to share your gift of grace
even to those who try to oppress us.
Send us into the world to heal with love in your name
through Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep.
Amen.**

SENDING

Peace I Leave You

Taizé Community

Peace I leave you, my peace I - give.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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Let your hearts be free from fear. My peace I give to you.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. A small number '5' is written above the first measure of the treble staff.

BLESSING

God is not lingering at a distance. God dwells in the world around us.

God is present in queer love, in all love, in your love.

God is made flesh in trans bodies and in all bodies.

God suffers with those who suffer from prejudice, discrimination, or broken relationships.

If you want to experience God, look around, listen, embrace, and care for her body in the body of your neighbor.

Now go in peace to share the love of Christ and shine your light into the world.

Thanks be to God.

CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Ian E. Boden
Vicar/Pastoral Intern

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
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Mandi T. Whitley, Deacon
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Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
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Calvin Harmon

Joe Rice

Amy Hegarty

Peggy Schotsch