

Queer-led Worship

Taizé Around the Cross

a candlelight service of song and prayer



February 3, 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

Elizabeth Allen*

Jaime Fivecoat*

Penny Bostain*

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 Divine, you created us through an act of love, for the purpose of love, because you are love. Guide us on our journeys towards a deeper and more honest experience of love. Allow us to truly understand the depths of your love for us and for all people so that we might love ourselves and others similarly. Continue to fill this hurting world with the healing power of your love. Continue to fill our bodies with the life-giving strength of your love. Help us to see and understand that we all are created in your holy image. Let each breath we take be a reminder that we have divine purpose. We give thanks and praise to you through Christ, our eternal lover.

Amen

Please be seated

GOOD NEWS

Matthew 22:37-40

Hear the words Jesus speaks to you:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

This is good news for all people.

Thanks be to God.

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.

14. LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

Toi, tu nous aimes

The image shows a musical score for a chant. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The lyrics are: "Lord God, you love us, source of compassion. Toi, tu nous aimes, source de vie." The word "vive" is written with a long horizontal line underneath it, indicating a long note or a sustained sound. There are repeat signs at the end of both staves.

The good news according to Rupaul, drag queen superstar:

Rupaul Charles

And remember: If you can't love yourself, how in the hell are you gonna love somebody else!

Can I get an Amen up in here?

Amen!

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

9
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 music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The lower staff is in bass clef. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. A fermata is placed over the word 'I' in the final measure of the line.

5
Let your hearts be free from fear. My peace I give to you.

The second system of music also consists of two staves. It begins with a measure rest marked with the number '5'. The melody continues from the first system. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. The bass staff has a final whole note chord.

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
Educational Ministries

Mandi T. Whitley, Deacon
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Amy Hegarty

Peggy Schotsch