

Queer-led Worship

Taizé Around the Cross

a candlelight service of song and prayer



March 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*
Jon Moyer*
Christie 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.

Your Light Has Come

Isaiah 60



Lift your head, raise your eyes, look a - round.
Light the world, heal the earth, bear the Christ.



Your light has come, Your light has come.____
Your light has come, Your light has come.____

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.

Wild and Holy Spirit,

At the start of this Lenten season, we ask you to find us in our wilderness. Many of us on the margins of society – the queer, the black and brown, the female identifying, the poor – have made this wilderness our home. You find us not by clearing the fallen trees, or gathering the moss-covered limbs, but by shining your light to forge a path among what has fallen. We travel with you through the brokenness. As we journey, we cry out and we pray. You hear us. In this wilderness we will see your cross. We journey to the cross with you only because we know it leads to resurrection. Otherwise, we are too afraid. Our nature is to kick and scream on the way. Do not silence us. Amplify our voices so that the world can hear the sounds of crucifixion. Strengthen our cries so that when our Easter finally comes, the world will remember what it took to get there and finally vow to never crucify again.

AMEN.

Please be seated

GOOD NEWS

The Good News of Jesus for all people:

Matthew 9: 32-34

As they were leaving, some people brought Jesus a person who was possessed by a demon and unable to speak. Once the demon was expelled, the individual began to speak—to the great surprise of the crowd. “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!” they said.

This is good news for all people.

Thanks be to God.

I Will Sing of your Love

Christopher Grundy

**I will sing of your love, love, love
of your steadfast love
for as long as I live
and I will sing of your love, love, love
for as long as I live.**

The Good news of Jesus for all people:

Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is horribly demon-possessed.” But Jesus ignored her. The disciples came and urged him, saying, “Please get rid of her! She keeps calling after us.” Finally, Jesus turned to the woman and said, “My mission is only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Rabbi, help me.” He answered, “But it isn’t right to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “True, Rabbi, but even the dogs get to eat the crumbs that fall from the table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

This is good news for all people.

Thanks be to God.

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 sees 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.*

O God, We Call

♩ = 90

O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from

The first system of music is in 4/4 time. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a dotted quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a dotted quarter note B2. The lyrics are: "O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from".

deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you.

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note C5, followed by a half note D5, and then a dotted quarter note E5. The piano accompaniment has a quarter note C4, followed by a half note D4, and then a dotted quarter note E4. The lyrics are: "deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you." The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

3. BLESS THE LORD

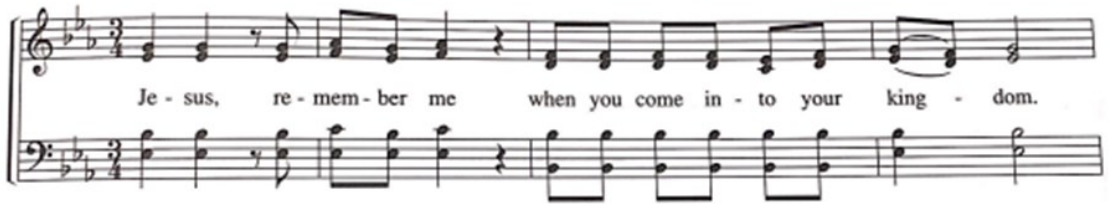
p Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first system of music for "3. BLESS THE LORD" is in 4/4 time. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a quarter note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a dotted quarter note B3. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a dotted quarter note B2. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

p Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note C4, followed by a half note D4, and then a dotted quarter note E4. The piano accompaniment has a quarter note C3, followed by a half note D3, and then a dotted quarter note E3. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

11. JESUS, REMEMBER ME



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

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.**

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

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