



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



CELEBRATING GOD'S QUEER CHILDREN: A SERVICE OF PRIDE

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 - 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

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Organist	Shelton Ridge Love
Guest Choir	Greenville Gay Men's Chorus
Lectors	Kristian McDowell Emily Pina
Prayers	Reid Tidwell
Communion Assistant	Jaime Fivecoat
Cantor	Amanda Cook
Greeters	Mark Allen Kevin Hine Jeremy McCarty Bradley Suddeth Jay Vaclavik
Nursery	Anne Harmon
Ushers	Lani and Russ Wise
Fellowship Hosts	Dani Cáceres Brad Waters
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

WELCOME BLESSING

A Blessing for You as Holy People

Blessed are you who gather here tonight.
You who gather to feel loved,
You who gather to reject hate.

You are enough.
You are trans enough; queer enough; ally enough.
You are brave enough; strong enough; you are YOU enough.
The only “right” way to be is the way that is you.
Be as God made you so as to tend your spirit.

No matter what you have been told
or what you have read on social media,
You are blessed. You are holy.
Blessed are you who are gay, lesbian, bi, straight, and asexual.
Blessed are you who are transgender, cisgender, non-binary, or somewhere between.

You are Holy in your toes, your fingernails, and your lips;
Holy in your scars.
You are Holy in your hair, or lack thereof.
You are Holy in all your genders and sexualities.

You are a blessed and beloved Child of God.
You are not a burden, a lie, or a distraction.
You are a Holy encounter.
Allow these truths to settle deep in your bones.
Live boldly into who God created you to be.

In the name of the Holy Parent,
And of the + Child,
And of the Holy Spirit, claim your blessedness.

Amen.

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely
live, a place where saints and children tell how
hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and
visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and
true, where all God's children dare to seek to
dream God's reign a new. Here the cross shall stand as
witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we
claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and
wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground here
peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through
Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in
Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and
stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and
live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the
stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an
end to fear and danger: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where all the named, their songs and visions
heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as
words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and
laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house
proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of Boundless love, you require each of us to love justice. May we follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter. May your love and grace fill our words and actions, turning us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and racism, to live for you and serve our neighbor. Soften our hearts and expand our awareness today to share in the spirit of God's dream, making the church a place where community is built to experience your grace. In your name, we pray,

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

¹But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob, hear the word of God—the One who created you, the One who fashioned you, Israel: Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. ²When you pass through the seas, I will be with you; when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown. Walk through fire, and you will not be singed; walk through flames and you will not be burned. ³I am God, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer. I give Egypt as ransom for you, Nubia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴You are more precious to me than Assyria; you are honored, and I love you. I will give people in exchange for you, whole nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Have no fear, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east and gather them from the west.

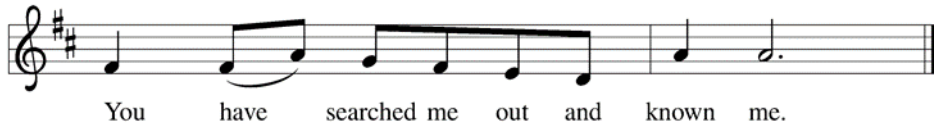
The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

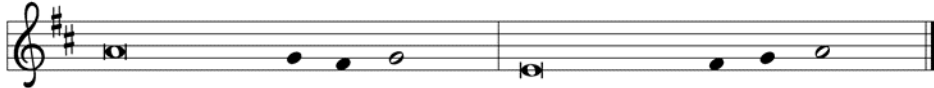
The refrain is introduced by the cantor.

Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.

*Psalm
Refrain*



*Psalm
Tone*



¹LORD, you have | searched me out;

O LORD, | you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my | rising up;
you discern my thoughts | from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my | resting-places
and are acquainted with | all my ways. **R**

¹³**For you yourself created my | inmost parts;
you knit me together in my | mother's womb.**

¹⁴I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.

¹⁵**My body was not hid- | den from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths | of the earth. R**

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written | in your book;
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.

¹⁷**How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!
How great is the | sum of them!**

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours. **R**

A reading from second Corinthians.

⁵We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Public's Eye

Tenor Eggleston

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked Jesus, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² Then the scribe said to Jesus, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘God is one, and besides God there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love God with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

If It's Not About Love, Then It's Not About God

Please stand as able

**We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
we're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
we will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,
we will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.**

Refrain

***We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace
for the flood of tears will fin'ly cease to be,
come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colors proud and bold and free.***

**We're a coat of many colors, sewn from many different threads,
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said, "Let there be light", created every varied shade,
In the rainbow each of us can find a place. *Refrain***

**We're the hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
we are peace in a world that's torn apart,
we are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,
we are love that blooms and grows in ev'ry heart. *Refrain***

**When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,
For our God will be with us on the way,
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any more,
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day. *Refrain***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the one who names us, claims us, and calls us beloved, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need...

Holy God, You made us in your image, and you call us good. Silence the voices of shame and hatred – including the ones in our own heads – and inspire us to love ourselves and one another the way you so desperately, passionately, and deeply love us.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, Teach us a fondness and delight for our bodies as we are called to live in them, in all of their holy, messy, and fabulous glory.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, Teach us to love our neighbors who live in different skin and to love intelligences and abilities of all kinds, and to practice loving-kindness toward all.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, Make us bold in our proclamation that the lives, loves, and gifts of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Ace, Queer, Non-binary, Intersex, Native, Black, Brown, Incarcerated, Disabled, and Migrant people matter to you, and so therefore matter to us.
God of grace,

hear our Prayer.

Holy God, we pray for those who need hope. For those who feel excluded. For all to know that they have value and are worthy of love, acceptance, and celebration. We pray for all those we name on our lips or silently in our hearts....

God of grace,

hear our Prayer.

Holy God, We pray for our LGBTQIA+ siblings who have lost their lives to hateful and fearful acts. We pray for those who work to make our neighborhoods safer and more peaceful places. End violence. Restore communities. We pray for peace and comfort for the families and friends of queer siblings who have lost their lives. Strengthen us and keep us until that day when we meet you face to face.

God of grace,

hear our Prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those desires too deep for words, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Greenville Gay Men's Chorus

Seasons of Love

*Jonathan Larson
arr. By Steve Milloy*

Please stand as able

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
eve'y where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed our right, our duty, and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you,
God of justice and accompaniment,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You made us all in your image;
in the spirit of abounding love and creativity,
you formed us. You sent us your advocate
so that we can know how to advocate for our
beloveds as you strengthen us to love and uphold one another.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff continues with 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-'. The third staff continues with 'san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -'. The fourth staff continues with 'est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-'. The fifth staff concludes with 'san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Amen.

At this table make us your body.
Form us to be a people of justice and peace.
Fill us with gratitude and generosity
that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Nourish our bodies so that we may be fed.
Teach us to see You, Christ, in those around us.
As we prepare this table for you, we prepare our
hearts for your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our creator in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kin-dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Please be seated

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the bread into the wine to receive Communion by intinction.

Gluten free wafers are available.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Greenville Gay Men's Chorus

Love Can Build a Bridge

arranged by Kirby Shaw

Words and Music by Paul Overstreet,

John Jarvie, and Naomi Judd

Please stand as able

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,

we have received from your table

more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

Let us go out into the world in peace;
love boldly; proclaim loudly;
welcome, include, and celebrate our Black, Brown, Indigenous,
People of Color and LGBTQIA+ siblings; and enter back
into this space knowing that welcome is a priority in our congregations.

Stand strong against injustices of this world;
and let this faith community be a safe and brave space of care and renewal
for ALL of God's children.

May the Holy Parent surround and fill you with the knowledge that you are loved,
affirmed, cherished, and celebrated.

May God walk with you as you march with your queer and trans siblings.

May the Spirit ignite the fires of justice in your heart.

The blessing of God strengthen and comfort you this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Light Dawns on a Weary World

#726

**Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to
see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a
weary world: the promised day of justice comes.**

Refrain

***The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.***

**Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find
bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain***

**Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once
forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a
weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain***

DISMISSAL

Go out into the world and shout from the rooftops that God's love is for ALL – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Thanks be to God.

Everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the back corner of the Gym.

Postlude

All Are Welcome
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We Are a Rainbow
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With the most heartfelt sincerity, we say THANK YOU to the Greenville Gay Men's Chorus for sharing their talents with us this evening!



Please consider supporting the music and joy they share with the Greenville community.



www.greenvillegaymenschorus.com/donate

A special thanks to Upstate Pride SC for including tonight's worship service in Black Pride Week's schedule of events. The Black Pride Unity March and Festival kicks off Saturday morning on South Main Street with a march at 11:00 AM.



CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

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

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator
Pastoral Intern

Angie H. McCormack
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

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