

Trinity Church
January 21, 2024

WELCOME AND LITURGY OF GATHERING

Leader: Reading of [Psalm 40.1-11](#). This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Trinity is fostering a haven of belonging where wanderers and wonderers gather to discover and embody the love of Jesus in the world.

COMMUNAL SINGING

Holy Forever

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

And the angels cry, holy
All creation cries, holy
You are lifted high, holy
Holy forever
Hear your people sing, holy
To the King of Kings, holy
You will always be holy
Holy forever

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
Sing the song forever and amen

You will always be holy
Holy forever

COMMUNITY CONFESSION

Leader: God of Justice,
God of Compassion,
God of Sacred and Scandalous ways,
We have so much still to learn.

By your grace, we have come to know love more deeply than once before –

ALL: its mess, its complexity, its stubborn and tender truths transform us more each day.

Leader: Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us.

ALL: You draw us into the heart of Wisdom,

Leader: Saving us from the lies of destruction.

ALL: Turning us towards hope that liberates.

Wonderful, Merciful, Savior

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious redeemer and friend
Who would have thought that a lamb could
Rescue the souls of men,
Oh You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, comforter, keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way,
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for,
Oh our hearts always hunger for

Almighty infinite father
Faithfully loving Your own
Herein our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne,
Oh we're falling before Your throne

Leader: But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you..

And so, when we are afraid. Or hurt. Or weary...

We betray the very One who brought us thus far.

ALL: We confess, we still shame Jesus, when he turns over tables.

Leader: We confess, we still condemn Jesus, when he breaks the rules to which we are loyal.

ALL: We confess, while Jesus is torn from the arms of his mother by ICE,

Leader: killed by his own lovers – so afraid of desiring trans women,

ALL: and sitting lonely on the street with no family to welcome them home,

Leader: our loyalties are often elsewhere.

ALL: Our priorities are not your own.

Leader: Search our hearts, O God, and see if there is any fear within us.

Meet us there with your good news that sets the captives free.

Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

(pause in silent prayer)

Leader: Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy.

ALL: God does not bind us to our regrets.

Leader: Or forever hold us to what we once believed.

ALL: God says, come and follow!

Leader: Know forgiveness and sin no more.

ALL: Love abounds. And Justice shall be manifest!

Leader: Wherever new life is desired,

may the peace of Christ be welcomed among us.

ALL: Thanks be to God who leads us on paths of resurrection.

SPOTLIGHT:

Equity Funds

[Kheprw](#)

[Irvington Counseling Collective](#)

[The Avenue Foundation](#)

Reparations: [Miami Nation of Indiana](#)

Equity Funds. Rolling submissions for 2024 Equity Funds will be accepted in phases: through May 5th and then again through November 3rd. This [form](#) is to be used to submit proposals and taken to Community Conversations scheduled for May 12th and November 10th. After those conversations, more solidified proposals (discerned through the larger group conversation) will then be taken to the Leadership Team for final disbursement requests. We ask that you use this form to prepare for presenting at a Community Conversation or if you are unable to attend those Equity Funds conversations the proposal will be taken to the group in your absence. Please refer to your emails for additional information. If you didn't receive an email and would like to be on the list, please send an email to contact@indytrinity.org.

BLESSING AND PASSING THE PEACE

Adults: The Lord be with you!

Children and Kids Ministry Leader: And also with you!

During this time we greet one another, recognizing that we are all a part of the body, as PreK-5th grade children are led to their ministry space. Younger children and youth remain, and are welcome, in the Gathering. Materials for toddlers are available and we understand that their presence means they will be heard, no need to worry about their vocal contributions.

SERMON NOTES

Finding Identity in Wisdom: *Salt and Light* and *Fulfilling the Sacred Teachings*

Matthew 5.13-20

- What piece of Wisdom stands out to you in this text?
- How does this passage speak to your/our identity?

- Storytelling: What are the stories of our particular faith community identity that come to mind - or might be remembered through sharing - when reading this text?

[*For discussion prompts visit the series page here.](#)

LORD'S TABLE LITURGY

Leader: Siblings in Christ,

If you will to love God before, in, and above all things,
in the power of God's holy and living Word, then let us say:

ALL: We will.

Leader: If you will to love your neighbors
and to serve your neighbors with deeds of love
then let us say:

ALL: We will.

Leader: If you will to practice mutual admonition toward your siblings,
to reconcile yourselves with those whom you have offended,
to abandon all envy, hate, and evil will toward everyone,
and to also love your enemies, and do good to them,
then let us say:

ALL: We will.

Leader: If you desire publicly to confirm before the church this pledge of love,
by eating bread and drinking juice,
the living memorial of the suffering and death of Jesus our Lord,
then let us say:

ALL: We desire it in the power of God.

Leader: Let us eat and drink with one another in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May God give to all of us the strength to carry out our pledge. Amen.

**communion elements are gluten free, not allergen free*

RESPONSE & OFFERING OF WORSHIP

The [Offering Basket](#)

Prayer requests may be posted in the Zoom chat (Zoom participants) or written and placed in the offering basket.

The Table

I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore
At His table

Come all you weary; come and find
His yoke is easy; His burden light
He is able; He will restore
At the table of the Lord

There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won't worry anymore
At His table

There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
I won't suffer anymore
At His table

I know He has a place for me

Oh, what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God

I'm invited to the table of the Lord
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
He says, "Come just as you are"
To His table

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sermon Series. The sermon series and resources for our new year series are posted online at www.indytrinity.org/sermon-series. In conjunction with the sermon series, Trinity **Seasonal Small Groups** in the winter of 2024 will form around *Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves* by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes. If you need assistance in acquiring a copy, please contact your group's host. Please contact the group host for more details and to generally RSVP.

Fishers - Monday lunch hour (12-1pm) Zoom, starting January 22

Queer Affinity - Thursdays 7-8:30pm, starting January 25

Midtown/Downtown - Wednesdays 6:30pm, starting January 24

Broad Ripple - Thursday 6-7:30pm with pitch-in dinner, starting January 25

Community Conversations. A survey went out this week about topics of interest for upcoming Community Conversations. Please take a moment to fill that out. If you have any questions or accessibility issues, please let us know (contact@indytrinity.org).

First Nations Version of the New Testament. Copies are now available for each household. Please pick up your copy at the Gathering and sign off that you've received one.

Clean up rescheduled to January 28th after the Gathering . We've got some things piling up in the office and storage areas at COhatch that could use some attention. Anyone who can provide a helping hand after the Gathering to sort through stuff to get rid of (take to sell on the marketplace, drop at Goodwill or the dumpster, etc) and also organize what remains would be appreciated.

Donations to Trinity may now be made through Zelle if your banking institution provides the service. Search for "Trinity Church Inc" (enrolled as Matthew Pierce and finance@indytrinity.org). Please double check all information matches before sending funds. If you run into any issues, please [let us know](#).

Bylaw Changes. In the Fall of 2023, the Leadership Team reviewed Trinity's bylaws and proposed a couple of changes regarding the language of section 2.1 "Composition" as well as general bylaw language. After soliciting feedback from the Congregation, the Leadership Team voted to approve the proposed changes. The Bylaws have now been updated and the current version appears on Trinity's website. If you have any questions, need access to that section of the website, or would like to discuss, please contact the Leadership Team at contact@indytrinity.org.

Gathering Hosting Schedule. As an act of service and care, please join staff, leaders, and others from your parish in hosting Sunday Gatherings. These are great times to connect and welcome others to converse while serving as well. Arrival at 9:45am is great, 9:30am is super helpful for assisting with audio equipment and/or indoor set up. Cleaning up on the back end should only take 10-15 minutes. The hosting checklist is in the Trinity office. Thank you!

January

7th: (Brunch) North/Carmel

14th: Fishers

21st: Midtown/Downtown

28th: Broad Ripple

February

4th: North/Carmel

11th: Fishers

18th: Midtown/Downtown

25th: Broad Ripple

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: With fresh reminders of God's presence in our lives,
let us go eager to bear witness to love that is steadfast,

**ALL: to tell stories of hope that persists in death,
to live courageously with trust in the justice of God.**

Leader: These gifts that awaken and restore are not meant to be kept hidden.

**ALL: In the company of the Spirit,
who empowers and enlivens,
may the Good News of God be revealed in all we do.**

Leader: Through Christ, may it be so

ALL: Amen.

(Some liturgies adapted from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com, enfleshed.com, and [Peace and Justice Support Network of the Mennonite Church USA](http://PeaceandJusticeSupportNetworkoftheMennoniteChurchUSA.org).)

COMMUNAL CONNECTION

Guide and Service Dog Training. As we welcome Guide/Service Dogs at Gatherings, please familiarize yourself with resources under on these two websites <https://www.guidedogs.com/resources/blindness-and-guide-dog-etiquette> and <https://www.guidedogsofamerica.org/best-practices-when-around-a-service-dog/> and discuss main points with those in your household. If you or anyone in your household has severe allergies or any fear of dogs, etc. please contact us (contact@indytrinity.org) so we can do our best to keep Gathering spaces welcoming for all.

Covid Guidelines: We are in a season of preparing for possible gathering changes due to the resurgence of Covid. Gatherings may look a little different according to the needs of our leaders if Covid affects them or their teams. We ask that everyone remain flexible if and/or when this is the case. **If a gathering is going to be virtual, we will send an email by 8am on Sunday**, or earlier. We are also asking that those who have tested positive or develop symptoms not attend the gathering in person, but join online via Zoom. If you have been exposed, you can follow the guidelines from the CDC by using this [calculator](#) to determine what are your best precautions to take.

Land Acknowledgement. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather for worship was stolen from Native peoples, who were driven out of the area and of their native lands by genocide, force (through broken treaties and laws imposed upon their nation), and systematic dispossession. The Myaamiaki, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples* and their sovereign Nations have cared for, and are deeply a part of, this land - past, present, and future. (ref: [Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, Trinity Church](#))