



Trinity Presbyterian Church

**March 10, 2024**

## *Welcome to Trinity! We are glad to have you worship with us this morning!*

Our ultimate purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. One of the greatest ways we can do this is to worship God corporately with God's people. At TPC we plan a worship service that is God-centered, God-directed, God-glorifying, anchored in the historical richness of tradition and is understandable by today's culture. This worship service seeks to focus on the majesty and grace of God through the use of the Scriptures, hymns (new & old), the sacraments, and prayer.

What follows is a liturgy or plan for our worship service. It seeks to tell the story of the gospel of grace. We are called by God into his presence to worship him alone. We remember the holiness and majesty of God and so we recognize our need of cleansing because of our sin. We remember the perfect provision God has made for us through Jesus Christ and his atoning death on the cross. We respond with thanksgiving. We are instructed by God through his Word. We commune with him through the Lord's Supper. And we are sent out with God's blessing.

As we worship God together through this re-enactment of the gospel, we pray that we will all grow in our knowledge of and love for the Lord, for one another, and in our desire to serve him in all we do.

### *Children in the service*

We believe God calls us to nurture and disciple our children in the faith. One of the ways we do this is through corporate worship. So, children are welcome to be with the congregation during the entire service. A room for nursing mothers is available on the north side of the sanctuary. The foyer can be used for children who are crying or need some extra attention. There are speakers enabling you to hear the service in both locations. A nursery is available (when staffing is available) off the main hallway for children from birth through three years of age.

### *Standing and sitting*

During parts of the service the congregation is asked to stand (indicated by the † in the bulletin). However, we understand that some are not able to stand for various reasons, and we hope that you will feel free to remain seated.

### *Giving*

Our members and regular attenders contribute financially to the Lord's work in and through our church. Visitors should feel no obligation to give. If you do not own a Bible or know someone who does not own a Bible, please accept a free copy of the Scriptures to take with you. You can find one at the Welcome Center in the foyer.

# ***WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP OUR GOD & KING***

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION**

## ***GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE TO WORSHIP & WE RESPOND***

**†THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Revelation 4:8b, 11 - Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come...Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.*

**†HYMN OF ADORATION & PRAISE**

*Holy, Holy, Holy - #100*

**†INVOCATION**

# **WE ARE REMINDED OF OUR NEED FOR CLEANSING & GOD'S PROVISION FOR US IN CHRIST**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

*1 John 1:5-10 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But, if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

### **Corporately**

*Father in heaven, we confess to you that we have walked in darkness. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, with our words, and in our actions. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, and mind. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Please forgive us for all our many sins. Cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. Renew in us a greater desire and ability to love and obey you in this coming week.*

### **Silently**

## **DECLARATION OF OUR ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

*Romans 5:8-9 - God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*

## **†HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*And Can It Be - #455*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE  
& ARE INSTRUCTED BY HIS WORD**

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

*Reverend Steve Johnson*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Titus 1:5-9 (p. 998)*

**SERMON**

*The Who and What of Church Officers*

*Reverend Chris Harper*

**WE COMMUNE WITH GOD THROUGH THE LORD'S SUPPER**  
*For further explanation of The Lord's Supper, please refer to the last  
page of this bulletin. All bread is gluten-free.*

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE WINE**

**ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELECTED OFFICERS**

- *Warrant and nature of the office of ruling elder and deacon*
- *Vows of the candidates*
- *Vow of the congregation*
- *Ordination prayer and laying on of hands*
- *Right hand of fellowship*
- *Pronouncement of ordination*
- *Exhortations to the newly ordained men and congregation*

**†HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

*Amazing Grace! - #460*

**GOD SENDS US OUT WITH HIS BLESSING**

**†BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

# The Who and What of Church Officers

*Titus 1:5-9 (p. 998)*

March 10, 2024

Reverend Chris Harper

## I. Who officers are supposed to be (6-8)

1. In their homes (6)

(A) With spouses

(B) With children

2. In their character (7-8)

(A) 5 vices to avoid (7)

(B) 6 virtues to cultivate

## II. What officers are supposed to do (5b, 9)

1. Hold firm to the faithful Word (9a)

2. Teach sound doctrine (9b)

3. Put down error (9c)

4. Work together (5b)

## III. So what?

1. Be encouraged by them

2. Pray for them

3. Follow their example (Heb 13:7)

4. For elders and deacons

## What is the season of Lent?

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the very heart of Christianity. The good news of the gospel is that God has acted in history to conquer evil and sin and reconcile sinners to himself through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. For those who have been united to Jesus by faith – who have submitted to Him as Savior and Lord – have been united with him in the likeness of His death and will one day be united with Him in the likeness of His resurrection (Rom 6:5). The season of Lent is about living out of our union with, and identity in, Christ. Lent is first and foremost about the gospel, the announcement of the good news of God’s grace, making its way deeper into our lives.

Lent (from the Latin, meaning “fortieth”) is the forty days leading up to Easter Sunday. Sundays themselves are not counted in these forty days, as they are understood as days of renewal and celebration (“mini-Easters” of sorts).

The number forty carries great biblical significance based on: the forty days of rain Noah and his family endured in the flood, the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness, Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness, the forty days Jesus spent on the earth after his resurrection, and much more. Forty days has been used by God to represent a period of trial, testing, and preparation.

Likewise, Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate the death (Good Friday) and resurrection (Easter) of Jesus. It is this very preparation and repentance – aimed at grasping the intense significance of the crucifixion – that gives us a deep and powerful longing for the resurrection, the joy of Easter.

The season of Lent is a journey to the cross: meditating on our sin and weakness, looking to Jesus as our perfect substitute and example, and being heightened in our worship of His victory over Satan, sin, and death. On the cross, Jesus took our place to appease God’s righteous anger toward our sin and rebellion. He was separated from God so that we could experience union with Him. He was crushed by God so that we could be adopted by God. He was raised with God so that we too might be raised with Him. The drama of how this unfolded is the story remembered during Lent. It is a time to immerse ourselves in this grand story so that it might increase our appreciation of Easter and love for Jesus. May we mourn the darkness in our hearts and rejoice in the light of God who came into the world to save us.

Observing the season of Lent is not a requirement. One is not sinning if they choose to not observe this season. For some, it is a time of rich reflection, repentance, and growing in their faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

The above explanation was adapted from the book, *Journey to the Cross*, by Will Walker and Kendal Haug (available on the Bookwall). Another resource you can explore which is also available on the Bookwall: *Journey to the Cross* by Paul Tripp – a 40 day devotional for the season of Lent.



## **March Verse of the Month:**

### **John 19:30**

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, 'It is finished,' and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*The entire Trinity family is encouraged to memorize the Verse of the Month together as we seek to grow in our knowledge of and love for God.*

## A Big Picture View of TPC – Our Purpose-Plan-Principles

### Purpose – Why does TPC exist – what is our purpose?

Our purpose is to make mature, grace-filled disciples of Christ who are growing in their knowledge and love for God, for people, and in their desire and ability to serve in the kingdom of God for God's glory.

- Matthew 28 - the great commission to the church → make disciples
- Matthew 22 - the great commandment to the church → love God and love people
- Ephesians 4 - equipping the saints for ministry and building up the body in love

### Plan – How will TPC accomplish our purpose of making mature, grace-filled disciples of Christ?

- (1) We plan to help people grow in knowledge and love for God by:
  - having weekly worship that is God-centered, God-directed, God-glorifying; is anchored in the historical richness of tradition; is understandable by today's culture; presents the grace of God; focuses on the Word, sacraments, and prayer
  - providing an education program for adults and children
- (2) We plan to help people grow in knowledge and love for others by:
  - encouraging gospel-centered community through small groups and fellowship opportunities
- (3) We plan to help people grow in their desire and ability to serve in the kingdom of God by:
  - equipping/training people to serve inside and outside TPC
  - providing opportunities for people to serve on committees and ministries inside TPC
  - sending people to serve in the kingdom of God with organizations/ministries outside TPC

### Principles – What are the things most important to us?

- (1) *Scripture* - We are committed to the inerrant Word of God, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the revelation of God's truth, and is infallible, authoritative, and trustworthy in all matters of faith and practice.
- (2) *Grace* - We are committed to the gospel of God's amazing grace as the foundation of all we do at TPC and as the primary motivation for growing into mature disciples.
- (3) *Reformed Theology* - We are committed to the reformed faith as it is articulated in the Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms and to teaching that is a warm and winsome demonstration of it.
- (4) *Missions* - We are committed to the gospel going out into every aspect of culture, locally and globally.
- (5) *Discipleship* - We are committed to a life-long process of growing in Christian maturity and Christ-likeness.
- (6) *Fellowship* - We are committed to building community within the church by demonstrating God's love for us in our love for each other.
- (7) *Welcoming* - We are committed to being a welcoming community - open and welcoming to both Christians and non-Christians - to the convinced and to the skeptic.
- (8) *Growing* - We are committed to being a growing community - internally as members of TPC grow both numerically and in Christ-likeness and externally as we see churches planted in SE MN for God's glory.

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ and are under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God and an active member of a congregation in which the gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of bread & wine. For those who prefer, grape juice is provided in the tinted cups at the center of the communion trays. If you have any questions about participating, please speak with one of the elders before or after the service.*

### **PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH**

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.*

### **PRAYER FOR THOSE DESIRING TO TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FIRST TIME**

*Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.*

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*(A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America)*

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