

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Beebe, Pastor
Heasuk Che, Director of Music/Organist
Lillian Warner, Director of Handbell Choir
Judy Grady, Financial and Administrative Assistant
Thomas Buonocore, Sexton
Jane Pellmann, Clerk of Session

Trinity Presbyterian Church is called by God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to be a **worshiping, nurturing and serving** community.

Welcome

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude "Gethsemane Meditation" arr. P. Lehenbauer

Call to Worship ♦

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

We see that in you! You're in the right place.

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

Prayer of the Day A Lenten Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Please, Lord, be with us at every moment and in every place. Give us the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, We will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for Us. Amen.

* Hymn #826 "Lift High the Cross"

Call to Confession ♦

Friends, when you study Peter's story in scripture it's almost impossible to ignore how much he loved to ask questions. He asks Jesus: "What does the parable mean?" "Where are you going?" "How many times should we forgive?"

Like a tenacious toddler, Peter was full of questions, because Peter was eager to learn. I wish I was more like that. I still have so much to learn. So friends, let's be like Peter. Let's return to Christ with the humility of a student as we pray together the prayer of confession. Let this be a moment of learning. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession ♦

Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher." Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?"—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness ♦

Family of faith, When Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive?" Jesus responded with abundance. That abundance exists for you as well. No matter what you have done or left undone, no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning, God's abundant

grace exists for you. God's love will never run out. So hear and rest in this good news:

You are forgiven. You are loved. You are invited to serve.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri (Hymn #581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

* Affirmation of Faith ♦

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

"How many times should I forgive?" "Jesus, where are you going?"

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

"Where does it hurt?" "What do you need?" "How can I help?"

We believe that God is a teacher.

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." "Here I am." "Send me."

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Faith Formation Moment

Offering of our Gifts

Offertory "Be Thou My Vision" Traditional Irish Hymn
William Tate, Trumpet

* Doxology (Hymn #606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and 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.

* Hymn #475 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Nettleton

Prayer for Illumination ♦

Teaching God, We want to learn your ways. We want to learn the ways of forgiveness. We want to learn the ways of grace. We want to learn your ways of love. That is part of why we return to your text week after week, because we are hungry to be more like you. So as we prepare to listen to your good Word, calm the noise in our minds. Center our spirits to focus on you so that we might learn and hear what we have

