

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO**

February 21, 2021



**Trinity United Church
360 Reid Street
Peterborough, ON K9H 7G6
Telephone: 705-743-3301**

**We acknowledge that we meet and live
on the traditional territories of the
Mississauga Anishinaabe People.**

**We give thanks for their care for the land
over thousands of years and
for their deep spirituality and
honouring of the Creator and the creation.**

**May we live with respect in God's creation
and in harmony with our neighbours.**



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

Welcome to all.

*May this time of worship touch our hearts and minds
and offer hope and promise for the days to come*

PRELUDE: "O Lamm Gottes, Unschuldig" J.S. Bach

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CHOIR INTROIT: "Lord Jesus, Think On Me" Georgiann H. O'Toole

WELCOME

LIFE and ACTION of the COMMUNITY OF FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP & SYMBOL PLACEMENT¹

HYMN: VU108² "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.

And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of wildness and wilderness,
hear us now as we make our confession:
God, you call us into the marketplace
and into the wilderness too,
but sometimes we are too frightened
to go into desert places.
What if there is nothing, absolutely nothing,
there? Or worse, we fear the nudgings and urgings
of the Holy Spirit that might call us to alter our lives.
The status quo seems easier. It's what we're used to.
And then when temptation comes,
we have no resistance.
We are prey to what is easy
as opposed to what is right. *(Silent Confession)*
Forgive us, O God.
Help us willingly to set foot in the desert,
to embrace emptiness and silence.
Help us to trust that we will be filled.**

WORD OF GRACE

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 9: 8-17 The Message

SOLO: "At the River" Charles Ives
(Margaret Marris: Contralto)

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1: 9-15 The Message

REFLECTION: “Beyond Ashes”

HYMN: VU121³ “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word,
give us faith to live your word.

From the dawning of creation,
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone,
make us turn to you alone.

PASTORAL PRAYER
LORD’S PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM: “A Lenten Walk” arr. by Hal Hopson

AFFIRMATION OF HOPE: VU 656⁴

We affirm our hope that a new day is dawning upon us.
We affirm our vision of a new heaven and a new earth.
We affirm our belief that the love of God
which is greater than all understanding
has the power to unite us
to participate in the creation of a new world.
We affirm the hope that turns suffering into a creative
process.
We affirm the hope that enables us to act.
God we hope: help us to hope together!

HYMN: MV27⁵ “Creator God, You Gave Us Life”

Creator God you gave us life,
your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.

Refrain: Through hands that paint majestic skies,
and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.

In ev’ry flow’r and ev’ry tree,
we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity. R

When with our hearts, our hands our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God. R

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: VU425 (v1)

God, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
O refresh us, O refresh us,
travelling through the wilderness.

POSTLUDE: “Christus, Der Uns Selig Macht” J.S. Bach

Leading in worship today are Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie, Robert Grandy, Minister of Music, Peter Darling, Worship Leader, Covid Choir: Dave & Chris Freeman, Jane & Peter Darling, Margaret Marris, Barb Diceman, Anne Campbell, Glynis Hilton-Devitt and Wendy Price-Brown. Technical Production: Dave Freeman.

Credits:

¹ Laura Turnbull, *Gathering*, 2021 LEP, 69.

² Words: © 1993 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. *Voices United*.

³ Words and Music: Marty Haugen © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under One License A-726544.

⁴ Words: *Your Will Be Done* 1986, reflective writings, prayers and hymns related to the discerning of God’s will for our lives, alt., © 1986 Christian Conference of Asia.

⁵ Words and Music: Judith Snowden © 2004 by Judith Snowden, Used by permission.

Prayer for Lent

*O God, you know us through and through,
you know the many choices we face each day.
We choose between right and wrong;
we choose between greater and lesser evils;
we choose what will be important to us in life.
As you strengthened Jesus to choose rightly,
when he was tempted in the wilderness,
so strengthen us, through your presence and Spirit,
when we face temptation,
that we may walk in the paths most pleasing to you. Amen.*

Duck (ed), Bread for the Journey, , Pilgrim Press © 1981. Used with permission.

TODAY'S MUSIC

On each of the five Sundays of Lent this year, you will be treated to a vocal solo by Margaret Marris – each one illustrating some aspect of that specific Sunday, or of Lent in general.

PRELUDE: On this first Sunday of Lent, Bach will be heard at the beginning and end of the service. To start, “O Lamm Gottes, Unschuldig” (O Innocent Lamb of God) from Bach’s *Little Organ Book*. Here Bach hides the German hymn tune as a canon between the tenor voice and the alto voice, perhaps illustrating that God’s love for us is always present but sometimes imperceptible to us.

INTROIT: “Lord Jesus, Think On Me” is an arrangement by American educator and composer Georgiann H. Toole of the old hymn-tune “Southwell”. With an ethereal organ accompaniment, she has created an arrangement perfect for Lent or any other penitential day.

*Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin. From earth-born
passions set me free and make me pure within.
Lord Jesus, think on me amid the battle's strife. In all my pain and
misery be thou my health and life.
Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray. Through darkness and
perplexity point thou the heavenly way.
Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when this life is past, I may eternal
brightness see and share thy joy at last.*

SOLO: In today’s Gospel reading from Mark, we hear about John baptizing Jesus in the Jordan. The old Gospel hymn “Shall We Gather at the River” written by Robert Lowery, contains the image of water in the text. Written in 1864, while an epidemic was sweeping through New York City, taking the lives of many friends and acquaintances, and enveloping many households with mourning, Lowery pondered in his heart questions like “Shall we meet again?” and “We are parting at the river of death, so shall we meet at the river of life?” As if by inspiration, the words and music began to flow out, Lowery said. The following year the hymn was printed in *Happy Voices*, and subsequently printed in many hymnals in the U.S. and Great Britain. In 1916, the modernist and idiosyncratic American composer Charles Ives arranged the tune in his collection of 116 Songs.

The familiar tune appears relatively unchanged. When modifications do appear in the melody, they are there for emphasis, or for illustrating a question in the text.

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its
crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?gather at the
river!*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river. Yes,
we'll gather at the river that flows by the throne of God. Shall we
gather? Shall we gather at the river?*

ANTHEM: At the end of today’s Gospel lesson, we hear that the Spirit immediately drove Jesus into the desert where he is tested by Satan. In American composer Hal Hopson’s setting of the traditional spiritual “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”, the text tells us that we too must walk the lonesome valley as Jesus did, as well as bear the cross that Jesus bore. Hopson’s setting features a walking bass line, a one-note handbell part, and a wordless descant over the melody. This is the first in a series of pieces honouring Black History Month.

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley. He had to walk it by himself; oh,
nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.
We must walk this lonesome valley. We have to walk it by ourselves;
oh, nobody else can walk it for us. We have to walk it by ourselves.
Jesus bore the cross of sorrow; he had to bear it by himself; Oh,
nobody else could bear it for him, he had to bear it by himself.
We must take our cross and follow; yes, we must follow by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can follow for us, we have to follow by ourselves.*

POSTLUDE: The music of Bach concludes our service today, as it began, with another of his preludes from the *Little Organ Book* – this one however in stark contrast to the beautiful simplicity of “O Lamm Gottes, Unschuldig”. This one, “Christus, Der Uns Selig Macht” (literally Christ Who Makes Us Blessed) is actually quite dissonant for Bach, and forces us to confront the idea of musical ugliness. The text of this hymn says that Jesus was “led before godless people and falsely accused, scorned, mocked and spat upon.” The dissonances on the off-beat keep recurring, never allowing the rhythm to settle – the musical effect of being beaten. I haven’t done my job if you don’t come away a little shaken after hearing this piece!

OFFERING

Your donations are appreciated and used carefully to further Christ's work in the community.

4 ways to Donate

1. Envelopes on plate at entrance to sanctuary.
2. Cheques placed in secure mailbox beside main door of church
3. PAR (pre-authorized remittance monthly). Contact church office and they will make arrangements.
4. Electronically through e-transfer or by using Canada Helps, a Canadian not-for-profit organization.

Just go to Trinity's web page <http://trinitypeterborough.com> and click on the 'Donate Now' button located at the upper right hand side of the page. Canada Helps will issue a tax receipt in Trinity's name.

Email: trinitychurch@cogeco.net
Minister: trinityminister@cogeco.net
Minister of Music: mail@robertgrandy.com

Confidential Pastoral Care: 705-874-8603
Website: www.trinitypeterborough.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Wednesday, February 17, the Trinity Church Council agreed that barring any further government shut-downs and with continued low Covid numbers locally our in-person worship will recommence on Easter Sunday, April 11. While we recognize that many of you are anxious to meet again in person we are concerned about statements from public health officials about new variants and feel strongly that we must exercise on the side of caution. Virtual services will continue to be available each week.

Joanna Away – Joanna will be away from the office from February 22- March 1. Emergency Pastoral Care will be available in her absence. Please leave a message on the confidential voice line (705) 874-8603 or call the church office.

Next Sunday – Jane Darling and the Worship & Sacraments Team will be leading our virtual service next week.

Pictures – Last week Joanna asked that people submit pictures of themselves enjoying a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. Please forward them to the church office for placement in the Easter Missive.

Trinity Outreach focuses primarily on food security and nutrition for members of our community. We work closely with the JUSTFood program and provide space for food preparation for the One Roof Diner and online cooking classes through the YWCA. More information and recipes can be found on the Nourish Newsletter put out by the YWCA. Follow this link to their latest newsletter: <http://www.nourishproject.ca/>

More Marmalade – Due to popular demand, Chris Freeman has made an additional batch of fresh Seville Orange Marmalade. The 250 ml jar is \$5 and Chris & Dave will deliver to your house with the purchase of two jars. Place your order at chris.free4all@gmail.com. All proceeds go to the support of Dania and Luis in Honduras.