

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: God of compassion, though you have promised to be forever present in times of trouble, our lives are more often shaped by our troubles than your presence. By the work of your Holy Spirit, help us to live lives shaped by the rhythm of your light and peaceful presence, and not the noise of fears.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of love, we know that your love has the power to bring light to the darkest places. Yet we often find that we grasp at anything that gives us power or control, rather than embrace the depths of your love. By the work of your Holy Spirit, may we comprehend your love which defies comprehension, and may your love dissolve every fear.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of mercy, we know that fear distorts our lives in untold ways. In Christ, you show us the way of life. Flood our souls with your divine mercy, align our hearts with yours, that we may run and not grow weary, that we may walk and not grow faint.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, when you lived among us in this world, you faced fear and torment unimaginable. Yet hell's greatest fury could not stop your light from shining. In your darkest moments, you did not allow fear to steal your identity. When you felt godforsaken, you refused to let your faith die. This bread and this cup tell the story of your faith, a faith that would not cower to any threat, but meet the world's deepest need. As we feast at your table, may your faith become our faith. May your courage become our courage. May your hope become our hope.

Leader: The Table of the Lord is open to all who hunger and thirst for that love which liberates us from darkness.

++An allergen free communion station is available in the southwest corner, near the sound booth ++

COMMUNITY SINGING

Hands and Feet

For all the strides we've made
For all of our blessings
We've fallen far away from truth
Turning our face away from this hurting race
We turned our face away from you

We want to be your hands your feet
Without words, we'll let our actions speak.

For every broken heart, for every widow
For those without shelter from the rain
We lift our eyes to you looking for answers
When we have been called to ease the pain

Here we are
Words can only go so far
Draw us closer to your heart
Bring us back to you—bring us back to you

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: God speaks, and sends us forth.

ALL: We will go to proclaim God's grace and glory.

Leader: Jesus speaks, and lives are changed.

ALL: We will go to stand with those who are oppressed.

Leader: The Spirit speaks, and the world is turned inside out.

ALL: We will become generous with our love for those around us.

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TRINITY CHURCH

Order of Worship: March 26, 2017

COMMUNITY SINGING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: (Read Psalm 23:1-6)

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

This is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the
spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

COMMUNITY SINGING

Open Up

You heard the cry of our hearts, and you came down
Freely you gave us your love, showing us how

Make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me sow love,
Where there is darkness let me shine light, and

May your love cause us to open up,
Cause us to open up our hearts.
May your light cause us to shine so bright,
That we bring hope into the dark.

All that we do without love, it means nothing.
Grant us the courage to give, as you're calling.

Hope for the hopeless, your love is
Strength in our weakness, your love is,
May we love, as you love.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their
Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is
the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

This is my Father's world, should my heart be ever
sad?
The lord is King—let the heavens ring. God reigns—
let the earth be glad.
This is my Father's world. Now closer to Heaven
bound,
For dear to God is the earth Christ trod.

TRINITY'S MISSION

Trinity is a Community following Jesus on a common mission to love God, one another and a broken world in Jesus' name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

4/2: Chen-Zaugg (Carmel) 4/9: Billingsley (Conner) 4/16 The Journey & Foust (Hill & Mescall)

IPS 55 Soccer Coach Needed for April and May. IPS 55 is looking for a volunteer soccer coach (or coaches) for their 2nd and 3rd grade team. Minimal experience required. Practices will be Tuesdays and Fridays from 4-5:00 pm and games are on Saturdays. Volunteer coaches can split duties between them. Email Elaine Schnabel (elaine@indytrinity.org) with interest or any questions.

Ukrainian Easter Eggs are being sold to support Ukrainian artists (graduates of Last Bell-affiliated orphanages). They are available Sunday mornings here at our gathering through Palm Sunday (\$25 each).

Lenten Retreats: In preparation for Easter, consider scheduling a time of silence and reflection at Sustainable Faith Indy. The retreat can be half day (\$30) or a whole day (\$60) during April 7-8 or April 11-14. You will be given a private room and printed guide to help provide direction for your time. Silence is broken during a communal lunch from noon to one for all retreatants. To register, visit <http://www.sustainablefaithindy.com/>

Annual Spring Clean-Up will be on April 22nd (Earth Day!) from 9 am to noon. Join us in this effort to keep our landscaping beautiful and our costs down. Bring rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, and yard tools. Contact AnnaLee Traeger with any questions at annalee@indytrinity.org

COMMUNITY CONFESSION

Leader: (Reading of Ephesians 5:8) As God's beloved children, we will not hide our sin or remain silent, but confess them to the One who will restore us with goodness and mercy. We cry out as the psalmist did, "create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us."

ALL: Light of the World, we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you. We pay strict attention to all who break the rules, but ignore the grace which is poured out upon us. We try to box you in with boundaries we can manage, but you continue to burst forth to bring newness into the world. God of Forgiveness, open our eyes to your presence among us. As you look at our hearts, may we see those around us in a different way, not as enemies or strangers, but sisters and brothers.

Leader: God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the Light.

(snuff out 4th of the Lenten candles)

ALL: We no longer have to live in darkness; the light of Christ shines upon us. Thanks be to God!

BLESSING AND PASSING THE PEACE

Adults: The Lord be with you!

Children: And also with you!

++During this time we greet one another, recognizing that we are all a part of the body, as parents lead children to their ministry spaces (nursery through Preschool are in the upstairs hallway and PreK-5th grade are downstairs).++

TEACHING NOTES:

In the Dark: Throwing Stones at Unlikely Messengers

John 9

Jesus, Light of the World (John 1.1-5)

God created humankind in God's image and we, in return, have created God in our own image.

The reality of darkness - the throwing of stones

Jesus and the man born blind: Light shines in the darkness

Exposing ableism

God can speak through what is viewed as taboo

taboo: a social or religious custom prohibiting or forbidding discussion of a particular practice or forbidding association with a particular person, place, or thing

Light is Jesus' effect on the world

John 3.19-21

Power and authority reside with God

God often chooses "unlikely messengers"

To explore:

The Liturgist Podcast, *Ableism*

For discussion:

Read John 3:16-21. How does this passage read differently to you in light of John 9?

What taboos might God be using among us today, to bring about blessing?

What we are blinded to or take great offense at today? What is God doing among us, especially as a community, to shed light into the darkness of our souls and lives?