

May 18, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Peter has a vision of “unclean” animals and a message from God that surprised him. -Artist: Ian Dale

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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Prelude and Procession *Quiet Prelude #3*, by Gilbert M. Martin Nicki Kerns

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Diane Ford

Preparation for Worship

Unconscious bias, also referred to as “implicit bias,” is when we make judgments or decisions based on our prior experience, our habitual thought patterns, and assumptions — and we are not aware that we are doing it! We do it all the time. Let’s set aside our expectations of God today and allow God to be God. Let's set aside our assumptions about the people we are worshiping with and meet them with open ears and hearts.

Introit

Spirit of the Living God, by Daniel Iverson

Trinity Choir

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elizabeth Bunch

Come, all who are searching — for healing, for belonging, for hope.

We come, each with our own story, seeking the Spirit’s leading.

God’s love is not bound by human rules or fear.

God’s welcome stretches wider than we can imagine.

Let us worship the One who breaks down barriers and brings new life.

With open hearts, we turn toward the God who makes us whole.

***Hymn GH #510**

The Summons, VS. 1,2 and 6

CALVINROVE

Call to Prayer for Forgiveness and Healing (One)

Elizabeth

God does not ask us to be perfect. God asks us to be honest. In a world that often tells us to hide our struggles, God invites us to bring them into the light — not for shame, but for healing. Let us turn to God with courage and hope.

Prayer for Forgiveness and Healing (Unison)

Elizabeth

Holy One, we all have our oddities, our quirks, our faults — and yet, we complain about others’. We pat ourselves on the back for kindness, then turn and mutter judgment under our breath. We cling to old categories and familiar lines. We judge what we do not understand.

We want to belong, to matter, to be loved — but in our striving, we compete, deceive, and even wound.

Forgive us: our air of superiority, our gossip, our quiet cruelties. We don't know how blind we are. Open our eyes. Loosen what is rigid in us. Unblock what is closed. And teach us to recognize your holiness in people and places we once overlooked. *(Take time to offer silent prayers.)*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Elizabeth

Friends, proclaim the good news:

God does not shame us. God restores us. There is no wound too deep, no mind too tangled, no heart too heavy for God's healing love.

You are not alone. You are not beyond reach.

You are forgiven, and you are held.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria**

Gloria Patri et Filio

TAIZÉ

Gloria, gloria, gloria Patri et Filio,

Gloria , gloria, gloria Spiritui sancto.

(repeat)

Glad Reception of a New Member

Today Trinity rejoices to receive Sandy Thormann as a new member.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

"The Peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you."

Message for the Children

(After the message, the children are invited to go to class with their teacher.)

Prayers of the People - God of Life and Hope, Hear our Prayer

Presbytery's Unity Candle: Westminster P.C., San Jose, Rev. Bryan Franzen

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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.

Mission Highlight: Mental Health Awareness Month

Michael Christie

Anthem

For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter

Nicki

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, over and around us lies.

CHORUS:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of the hour of the day and of the night;

Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,

Sun and moon and stars of light.

CHORUS

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;

Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,

For all gentle thoughts and mild.

CHORUS

For each perfect gift of thine by Your grace so freely given,

Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,

Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n.

CHORUS

Prayer for Illumination

Diane

Spirit of the Living God, you once gave Peter a vision that changed everything. Give us new vision now. Disrupt what needs disrupting. Comfort where there is pain. Surprise us with your grace — and speak a word that sets us free. Amen.

Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Diane

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them." Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: "I was in the city of Joppa

praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."

One: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. Diane Ford

Call to Offering

Offertory

Berceuse, by Lani Smith

Nicki Kerns

***Doxology #591**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication

Diane

God of abundant mercy, what we offer today is more than money — it is our hope, our trust, and our desire to be part of something holy. Use these gifts to build places of rest, healing, and welcome. May they bear fruit far beyond our imagining. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*Hymn GH #539

Gather Us In, vs. 1,2 and 4

GATHER US IN

*Blessing and Charge

*Amen

Trinity Choir

*Postlude

Fanfare and Trumpeting, by David Paxton

Nicki Kerns

*We invite all to stand in body or in spirit.

PH - Presbyterian Hymnal; GH - Gather Hymnal;

GTG - Glory to God Hymnal

Special Thanks to Our "Sunday Saints"

Pastor, Rev. Diane Ford; Music Director, Nicki Kerns

Lector, Elizabeth Bunch; Usher, Pete Halper

Greeter, Russ Hobbs; Flowers, Karen Wichelmann;

Coffee Hour, Mayre and Tim Vincent

Audio/Video/Zoom Tech, Chad Bell & Chuck Cobery

Announcements

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church

Are you new today? We look forward to getting to know you. Please fill out a visitor welcome card and place it in the offering plate during the Call to Offering. After worship, join us for coffee/refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. We're glad you're here!



Third Monday Book Club, May 19

Hi Bookies! Our book club meeting will be tomorrow in the Fireside Room at 10 a.m. We'll be discussing *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier. Whether you're a regular attendee or a newcomer, all are welcome to join in the conversation!

Pride Parade, June 1

Trinity Presbyterian Church will once again be hosting a booth, along with Aptos Methodist, at the Pride Festival in downtown Santa Cruz. This is a fun and exciting event, and we will need volunteers to take 2-hour shifts throughout the day. Although setup and breakdown are mildly physical, the rest are easy sit-down jobs. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Family Fun Fest, June 14

Enjoy food, activities for all ages and abilities, and music by Love Creek on June 14, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Family Fun Fest, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 420 Melrose Ave. in Santa Cruz. In partnership with Urban Works, festivities include cupcake walk, fishing for prizes, ping pong, shuffleboard, face painting, and more, beginning on Trinity's lawn on Poplar Ave. and continuing at campus venues indoors and out.

Congratulations to graduates among Trinity's extended family!

Julia Bates, University of California, Berkeley

Kiera O'Brien, Escondido Christian School

Carina Bunch, University of Puget Sound

Kelsey Ferrell, University of California, Riverside

Regina Khoury, Humboldt University – Graduate in Geology

Rhiannon Lawton, San Lorenzo Valley High School

Maggie Poston, Rancho de sus Niños School of Mission

Matthew Robinson, California Polytechnic – Graduate in Engineering

Leilani Soares – University of California, Los Angeles

MaryAnn Hobb's Collection

Check out Mary Ann Hobb's collection of craft books in the Youth Room. (There is a designated shelf with a small plaque.) Feel free to borrow a book or add one if you have a craft book to share.

Teen Tech Assistant Position

Trinity is seeking teenagers (ages 13-18) to assist with the operation of our computer for filming services, managing audio equipment, and handling handheld microphones, along with a few other minor tasks. For more information, the listing can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office by the applications.

Presbytery's Unity Candle moves in San Jose!

Today, we remember and pray for the community, ministries, and staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church with Rev. Dr. Fred Herrell.

Please continue to remember these people and situations in your prayers.

- Heather: grateful for successful surgeries; dealing with tough recovery.
- Pope Leo XIV: thankful for his election; blessings on his ministry.
- Jerry Thormann's friend Richard: pray that he recovers from his recent hospitalization from unknown causes, and be able to return to his daily walks.
- Travelers: mercies for their journeys.
- Peace: resolution of issues between all nations and parties at war - Russia and Ukraine, India and Pakistan, Israel and Hamas.
- Mother of Nicki's piano student: gratitude for successful third surgery.
- Mother who lost her daughter in a fatal accident: peace and support.