

March 30, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent



The Return of the Prodigal, Rembrandt (Dutch, 1661-1669)

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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Prelude and Procession

Nicki Kerns

Come Home, by James Michael Stevens

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Diane Ford

Preparation for Worship

Today we look at the story of the “prodigal son” in Luke 15. Can you remember a time when you embarrassed yourself, when you wanted to hide, hoping no one would know what you had done? Sharing our most embarrassing moments can be a fun game at a campfire and perhaps a great spiritual exercise to keep us humble. Admitting mistakes can be freeing. What hurdle needs to be jumped to be willing to confess our truth? How can we, like the prodigal’s father, be generous to the confessor?

Introit *While We Are Waiting, Come*; by Claison & Cloninger Trinity Choir

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Kim Johnston

This is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

***Hymn:** PH 186 *Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord*, vs. 1-4 TALLIS ORDINAL

Call to Prayer for Forgiveness and Healing

Kim

In the brightness of God’s light, let us examine our own hearts and minds — our bruised egos and the ways we fight back, our fears and the ways we let them be in charge, our anger and the ways we justify bad behavior.

Prayer for Forgiveness and Healing (Unison)

Kim

Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we resist your calling — as individuals and as communities. As we name our regrets, grant us the courage to remedy the damage we’ve done. As we come clean about our misguided motives, grant us wisdom to realign with you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of our hearts and church. Amen.

(Take time to offer silent prayers.)

Assurance of Forgiveness (Responsively)

Kim

Friends, hear the good news: While we were still far off, our Heavenly Parent ran to meet us with open arms. In Christ, we are welcomed home, embraced by grace, and forgiven completely.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***Gloria** (Pg. 8)

Gloria, by Nicki Kerns

***Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit, Three in one.***

***Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit, Three in one.***

***As it was in the beginning, now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen.***

***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: Gilroy PC, Salinas, Rev. Trevor VanLaar.

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.

Anthem *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive;* by Paul Monachino

Choir

*“Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive,” You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.*

*How can Your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light Your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew,
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!*

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease,
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.*

Prayer for Illumination

Kim

Loving God, as we hear your Word, open our hearts to your mercy. Let us see ourselves in your story and know your unending grace. By your Spirit, lead us home to your truth and transform us by your love. Amen.

Readings

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Kim

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country, and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on

his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

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

Sermon

Rev. Diane Ford

Call to Offering

Offertory

Album Leaf, by Gordon Young

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 (Responsively)**

Diane

God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.

We give these offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

***Hymn, PH #369 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me, vs. 1,3,4** I'M GONNA LIVE

***Blessing and Charge**

***Amen**

Trinity Choir

***Postlude**

Doxology, by Wendy Stevens

Nicki Kerns

Image on front cover: "The Return of the Prodigal," Rembrandt

*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, Kim Johnston; Ushers, Pete Halper and Jeff Lawton

Greeters, Linda and Ron Weaver;

Parish Potluck, Kim Johnston and Pete Halper

Flowers, Karen Wichelmann: in memory of Tom Wichelmann

Audio/Video/Zoom Tech, Chad Bell and 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 the Potluck in the Fellowship Hall. We're glad you're here!

Following the Potluck will be a 12:30 Member Class in the Youth Room.



Sacred Pause

Thursdays, April 3 - April 10, 6 PM - 8 PM

**Music, Art & Reflection Taize Style in Fellowship Hall
Followed by a Potluck Dinner and Book Study in the
Fireside Rm.**

The book: "Were You There?" by Luke A. Powery

If you plan on coming to this week's (April 3) dinner, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Graduation Time

If you have a child or grandchild graduating this spring, please let Elizabeth Bunch (g_e_bunch@yahoo.com) know their name and address by **APRIL 13th**. The deacons would like to recognize our graduates from middle school, high school, and college. (For college, please give us their home address.)

One Great Hour of Sharing

OGHS makes a difference in the world. Our generous donations are divided into thirds for three programs: 1) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance 2) Presbyterian Hunger Program and 3) Self-Development of People. Please use the provided special envelopes. We will collect until Easter Sunday.

A New Way of Giving

For those who have been contributing monthly through online giving, please note that we have switched to a new system that accepts donations at a lower rate of cost. To continue supporting us, please visit our website at www.trinitypressc.org. We appreciate your generosity.

New Announcement about Announcements!

Please turn in your announcements for the Sunday bulletin and/or weekly newsletter by **10:00 a.m. on Mondays**. Thank you!

Committee Locations and Times

Does the office know when and where your committee is meeting? Please inform the office, as this affects our custodian's schedule. Thanks!

Donate Used Electronics

The Welcoming Network seeks computers and phones for our neighbors. Donated laptops (PCs up to 10 years old, MacBooks up to 15), iPhones (4G/5G), Androids, iPads, and tablets will be erased, refurbished, and given to those in need. Non-reusable items will be recycled at Grey Bears. If you are able to donate any of these items, contact **Karen Wichelmann** at (831) 588-9240.

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.

Hours: 2 hours per week, Sunday mornings from 10 AM to noon

Compensation: \$16.50 per hour or the option to earn volunteer service hours for school requirements.

Requirements: Some familiarity with computers, audiovisual, and electronic equipment is preferred; training on our equipment will be provided.

For more information, the listing can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office by the applications.

Gloria

Nicki Kerns

Moderato
4

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to the Son, and to the Ho-ly

10
Spi-rit, Three in one... As it was in the be-gin-ning, now and ev-er

16
shall be, world with-out end, A - - - men.

Presbytery's Unity Candle moves to Gilroy!

Today, we remember and pray for the community, ministries, and staff of Gilroy Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Trevor VanLaar.

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

- Nicki Kerns and the talented students at San Lorenzo Valley High School: gratitude and praise for their production of the musical Grease.
- Tiffany, a colleague of Chad's: Prayers for comfort as she grieves the unexpected passing of her husband.
- Joanne, Larry & Lorraine's daughter: Prayers for strength as she celebrates her birthday while navigating difficult changes.
- Jim Atwood: Continued prayers as he goes through a rough time.
- Ellen: Prayers for a successful surgery on Thursday for lung cancer.
- Stacy, Rosemary's mother: Prayers for healing as she deals with complications after recent surgery.
- Stranded astronauts: Prayer of thanksgiving for their safe return home after nine months at the International Space Station.
- Fred: Prayers for guidance as he faces declining health and uncertainty.
- Diane's new Sacred Pause on Thursday nights: Prayers for its growth and impact.
- Linda: Prayers for healing as she recovers from a mild case of shingles, grateful that the shingles shot has lessened its severity.



If you would like to order an Easter Lily, please fill out this form. Attach your payment of \$10 per lily to the form and drop it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Flower orders are due no later than April 14, 2025. Lilies may be picked up after the Easter Worship Service.

In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Total Number of Lilies ordered: _____

Please fill out the form below. Tear off and put in the offering plate.

Yes, I/We will be attending the Sacred Pause Lenten Gathering
Thursday evening, April 3

Name(s): _____

Please circle one of the below. No Desserts please.

I/We will bring: soup salad bread

