

March 23, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent



A thriving fig tree in a vineyard. (AI generated on chatGBT)

Trinity Presbyterian Church

420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062

www.trinitypressc.org ♦ trinitysc@sbcglobal.net

(831) 423-8995

Prelude and Procession

Nicki Kerns

Come To the Water, by John Foley

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Diane Ford

Preparation for Worship

What parts of your life are thriving right now? Which parts are not? The analogy of a healthy, thriving tree is a common one in the scriptures. God is God of *all* our parts and is at work to bring each of us, this congregation, and the world to fruit-bearing health and wholeness.

Introit

As In the Solemn Stillness; by Anonymous

Trinity Choir

Call to Worship (Responsive, based on Ps. 63)

Elizabeth Bunch

O God, you are our God, we seek you earnestly; our souls thirst for you, our flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Our souls cling to you; your right hand upholds us.

We have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, our lips will praise you.

Our souls cling to you; your right hand upholds us.

We will bless you as long as we live; we will lift up our hands and call on your name. Our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast, and our mouths praise you with joyful lips.

Our souls cling to you; your right hand upholds us.

When we remember you on our beds and meditate on you in the watches of the night, we find joy in your presence.

Our souls cling to you; your right hand upholds us.

For you are our help, and in the shadow of your wings, we sing for joy!

Our souls cling to you; your right hand upholds us.

*Hymn: GTG #543 (Insert)

God, Be the Love to Search & Keep Me, by Richard B. Colligan

Call to Prayer for Forgiveness and Healing

Elizabeth

Let us hold space for the needs in this room, of which we are unaware. Let us pray for one another with tenderness as we name our deepest wounds, doubts, needs, and temptations. Come, let us pray together.

Prayer for Forgiveness and Healing (Unison)

Elizabeth

Merciful God, you call us to walk in your ways, yet we so often turn aside. You invite us to trust in your power, but we cling to fear. You send us out to do your work, yet we make excuses and hesitate. Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we resist your calling. Heal the wounds of our doubt, our complacency, and our selfishness. Renew us by your Spirit, that we may love as you have commanded, that we may bear witness to your grace, and that our lives may reflect the mercy we have received. We pray in the name of Jesus, who walks before us and leads us home. Amen. *(Take time to offer silent prayers.)*

Assurance of Forgiveness (Responsively)

Elizabeth

Hear the good news: Our God is full of mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Jesus did not turn away from his mission, and he does not turn away from us. In Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole — set free to love and serve as he has called us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Gloria**

Nicki's Gloria

Nicki

***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: Lincoln Avenue PC, Salinas, Rev. Jason Barraca.

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 *Be Still, My Soul*; by Jean Sibelius, arr. Mark Webb Nicki
Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side! Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to thy God to order and provide; in ev'ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heav'nly Friend. Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past; thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment, grief and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Prayer for Illumination Diane

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word, open our hearts to receive your truth. By the power of Your Spirit, let Your light shine in our understanding, that we may be transformed by your wisdom and love. Amen.

Readings **Luke 13:1-9** Diane

I invite you to consider this passage in the context of community and the world rather than an individual's life. *Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these*

Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

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

Sermon

Rev. Diane Ford

Call to Offering

Offertory

Lyric Piece, by Edvard Grieg

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, GTG #749 Come, Live in the Light, by D. Haas WE ARE CALLED

*Blessing and Charge

*Amen Trinity Choir

*Postlude *Amazing Grace*, by Ben Dockery Nicki Kerns

Image on front cover: Thriving fig tree in vineyard. (AI generated on chatGTG)

*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; Ushers, Pete Halper
Greeter, Jo Lynn; Flowers, Kathy Hatfield;
Coffee Hour, Kim Johnston
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 refreshments in the Magnolia Courtyard (or Fellowship Hall if rainy/cold). We're glad you're here!

Online Giving & New Updates!

Our website has undergone some exciting changes! In addition to online giving, our calendar has been updated to include church group meetings.

New Announcement about Announcements!

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

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.

Sweet Pea, March 29

Interested in learning to quilt or looking to get back into it? Grab a sewing machine and join Sweet Peas! Their next meeting is in the Youth Room on March 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Parish Potluck March 30th, following worship, in the fellowship hall

Bring a dish to share and... be ready for wonderful food, fellowship, fun and laughter!

Membership Class: Sun., March 30, 12:30 - 2:30 PM (after the luncheon!)

Pastor Diane is offering a Membership Class to explore what it means to be part of Trinity and the wider PC(USA). Topics include the Presbyterian Church's work nationally and globally, Trinity's mission and local outreach, reformed theology and approach to Scripture and faith, church structure, and, most importantly, our shared journey as disciples of Jesus. ***Please R.S.V.P. for the class with Pastor Diane: trinityscPastorDiane@gmail.com by Mar. 27.***

Sacred Pause

Thursdays, March 27- April 10, 6 PM - 8 PM

**Music & Reflection Taize Style in Fellowship Hall
Followed by a Potluck Dinner and Book Study in
Fireside Rm.; Art for Children (ages 7-10) Library**

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



If you plan on coming to this week's (March 27) dinner, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate. 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.

Additional: Applicants must provide a student work permit. No religious affiliation is required to apply or hold this position.

How to Apply: Applications are located on the bulletin board outside the church office in the hallway. Additionally, you may contact the office by email at trinitysc@sbcglobal.net.

Presbytery's Unity Candle moves in Salinas!

Today, we remember and pray for the community, ministries, and staff of First Thai Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Lincoln Avenue PC, Salinas: Rev. Jason Barraca.

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.
- Kathy, Lorraine Vilardo's sister: continued recovery and healing.
- Megan, a friend of Sandy Thormann and mother of three young children: recovering from neck surgery and now facing a cancerous brain tumor.
- Geraldine, Nicki's sister: thankful to be home after weeks of hospitalization from a still undetermined diagnosis.
- Stranded astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Willmore: safety for their return after nine months at the International Space Station.
- Rosie Bell's friend, Quincy: continuing to experience severe muscle cramps and nervous system issues.
- Peoples of Southwest Asia and the Middle East: forbearance and safety; awareness of the grave and inhumane treatment they face daily.
- Family of Florence Nuss: gratitude and joy in celebrating her 101 years.
- The Session: discernment and wisdom in leading the congregation.

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, March 27th

Name(s): _____

Please circle one of the below. No Desserts please.

I/We will bring: soup salad bread

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Gloria

Nicki Kerns

Moderato



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



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



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

749 Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called

G C D G

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

C D Em

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

Em7 C G Am7

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

G C Dsus D

free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain G C D C D G C

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to

D Em Em7 C D

love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -

C D G C D C G

oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Since 1938 Trinity has carried on a ministry of worship and service in the Santa Cruz community and has extended itself into the world through participation in regional, national, and international mission programs.

Trinity Presbyterian Church Supports/Sponsors

Presbyterian Missionaries in Congo: Jeffery and Christi Boyd

Indonesia: Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Riskakotta

Mexico/US border: Craft Giron, Mark Adams, and Miriam Maldonado Escobar

Boy Scout Troop #618 ❖ Association of Faith Communities (AFC) ❖ CASA

Caring 4 Kids (Survivor Healing Center) ❖ Friends Outside ❖ Habitat for Humanity

Housing Matters Immanuel House (Synod of the Pacific)

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. General Mission ❖ Rebele Family Shelter ❖ Santa Cruz al Salvador

Santa Cruz Pride Parade ❖ Shower the People ❖ Sweet Pea Project

Urban Works ❖ Wings ❖ Welcoming Network

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Choir Practice: Sunday, 9:00a.m.

Trinity Church Officers

Session

Ellen Bauerle, Clerk of Session

Admin/Finance, Chad Bell (2nd Term ('27), Mayre Vincent (/27)

Mission, Church Cobery ('27); **Nominating**, Ed Sams ('25)

Outreach, Mayre Vincent ('27); **Personnel**, Debbie Bates ('26)

Worship/Christian Education, Ellen Bauerle, Michael Christie ('26)

Deacons

Class of 2025

Elizabeth Bunch

Vickie Rutan

Class of 2026

Nancy Cobery

Kim Johnston, Moderator

Class of 2027

Barbara Christie

Pete Halper (2nd Term)

Marta Narus

Lorraine Vilardo (2nd term)

Trinity Staff

Pastor: **Rev. Diane Ford**

Music Director: **Nicki Kerns**

Office Manager: **Cailan Darling**

Custodian: **Hortencia Martinez**