

March 1, 2026 ~ 10:30 a.m.

**Welcome to Worship
Communion Sunday
Second Sunday in Lent**



Jesus and Nicodemus

Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062
www.trinitypressc.org ♦ trinitysc@sbcglobal.net
(831) 423-8995

Prelude and Procession *Song Without Words, op. 1 #19*
Felix Mendelssohn

Nicki Kearns

Welcome

Rev. Diane Ford

Preparation for Worship

In Jesus' nighttime conversation with Nicodemus, a single Greek word carries two meanings: "born again" and "born from above." Both matter. In today's scripture we explore how that layered language invites us into a deeper understanding of spiritual rebirth—not as a single moment, but as a lifelong journey of clarity, humility, and growth in the Spirit.

Introit

Jesus, We Are Here

Choir

Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Debbie Bates

In the wilderness, Jesus learned again that he was God's Beloved.

In our wilderness, God names us Beloved too.

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night for a private conversation.

Let us worship together the One who welcomes questions!

***Hymn GtG# 314** *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness vs. 1, 2, 5*

Please see insert

Please remain standing if able, and face the baptismal font

Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing (*unison*)

Debbie

Creating God, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from

your ways. Forgive us, and free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior.

Psalter Hymnal, CRC Publications, 1987

(Time for silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness and New Life *(responsively)*

Diane

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sin. You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

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

Let us share a sign of that peace with one another.

Children are invited to the front pew after the Passing of the Peace to see and hear today's Scripture reading. Afterward, they may go to Sunday School.

Prayer of Illumination

Debbie

God of Light, you meet us in our questions and in our longing for clarity. As you once spoke with Nicodemus in the quiet of the night, speak with us now.

Reading: **John 3:1-17** Nicodemus Visits Jesus Storytellers

Narrator: Debbie; Jesus: Ron; Nicodemus: Michael

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

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

Presbytery Unity Candle: We pray for Trinity Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz, and the Rev. Diane Ford; and we pray for Urban Works.

what is good, what is just, and what gives life. We trust that nothing can separate us from the love of God, and we seek to follow Jesus in the Way of love.

Communion Hymn GH# 605 *In the Breaking of the Bread*
Sung in English or Spanish

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

The outer ring is wine; the inner rings are grape juice.
Gluten-free bread is made available.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving *(responsively)*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Announcements

***Blessing and Charge**

***Amen**

Choir

***Postlude**

Praise Ascending, by David Paxton

Nicki

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

PH - Presbyterian Hymnal; GH – Gather Hymnal; GtG - Glory to God

Special Thanks to Our “Sunday Saints”

Pastor: The Rev. Diane Ford

Music Director: Nicki Kerns

Lector: Debbie Bates

Flowers: Barb Christie

Greeters: Michelle Sheer & Jeanne Bland

Usher: Pete Halper

Coffee Hour: Barb Christie

Readers: Debbie Bates, Ron Weaver, Michael Christie

Audio/Video/Zoom Techs: Chad Bell, Chuck Cobery, Rosie Bell

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!



Lenten Evenings: We enjoy four Thursday evenings, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Join us for fellowship, potluck, and an after-dinner conversation on topics of faith. All are welcome and encouraged to invite a friend.

BREAKING NEWS! Save the date: Annual Deacon's Parish Potluck, Sunday, March 29. All are invited to bring a dish to share and enjoy delicious food and terrific fellowship. You will also be able to visit with your deacon or meet your new one. See you there!

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

- Our Nation: that we, the people, will overcome the un-Christian characteristics — xenophobic, racist, homophobic, misogynistic — of the autocratic politicians currently in power.
- Steve, a friend of Dan Rutan: healing from a massive infection.
- Jim, Bob Scott's son: undergoing surgery for removal of a melanoma.
- Family, friends, and colleagues of Michael Mello: mourning his passing.
- First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto: grateful for their ministry and longtime support for Palestinians.
- Jonathan, Debbie Bates son: traveling mercies and safety during his adventures in Austria.
- Chad Bell's friend, Bob: thankful that he was able to ring the cancer-free bell.
- Charlie Kerns: gratitude that they achieved a perfect score on the National Counseling Exam and are now qualified to practice as a therapist/counselor.
- Tim Vincent's mother: on her final journey under hospice care.
- Marta Narus and Diana Dean: continued progress in healing from recent surgeries.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

CHRIST-CENTERED and MISSION-DRIVEN:

An OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

trinitypressc.org (831) 423-8995 Facebook Instagram

Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 10:00 - 2:00 ❖ Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



Session Elders

Class of 2026
Ed Sams (2nd T)

Class of 2027
Chad Bell (2nd T)
Chuck Cobery
Mayre Vincent

Class of 2028
Michael Christie (2nd T)
Ron Weaver

Deacons

Class of 2026
Nancy Cobery
Kim Johnston

Class of 2027
Barbara Christie
Peter Halper (2nd T)
Marta Narus
Lorraine Vilaro (2nd T)

Class of 2028
Gigi Giannini

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Diane Ford Music Director: Nicki Kerns
Office Admin: Nicole Donovan Custodian: Hortencia Martinez

Committee Leads

Clerk of Session, Ellen
Admin/Finance, Chad
Mission, Chuck
Nominating, Ed

Outreach, Mayre
Personnel,
Worship & Christian Education
(WCE), Ellen and Michael