

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZOOM-ology –Pastor Stan will offer Zoom-ology this **Tuesday, September 15th** at 7:00 pm. The timely topic is “Pandemic and Disease in the Bible.” Email or call Pastor Stan for meeting ID number.

SACK SUPPER SAINTS - will resume on **Sept 21**, at the church, outside near the playground at **6 pm** for sack suppers and 630 for book discussion. Previously decided book has had a publication delay, so we will discuss meeting times and possible books.

BOOK OF JOB BIBLE STUDY – Why do faithful people suffer? Job wanted to know and sought an answer from God. Pastor Stan will begin an **8-part Bible Study on the Book of Job**. The same Bible Study will be offered twice each week – Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and Thursdays at 11:00 am. Each class is limited to the first 9 people who sign up online or by calling the church office. When weather is permitting, we will consider gathering outdoors. Please bring your own Bible, chair, and mask for each session. Social distancing will be practiced. Wednesday sessions will be September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11 & 18. Thursday sessions will be October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19.

OWLS - The OWLS Bible Study will meet again **Tuesday, October 6, at 10:00 am on ZOOM**. We shall begin a study of St. Paul's writings. Contact Herb Burhenn (886-4167 or Herbert-Burhenn@utc.edu) if you would like to be added to the invitation list. The log-in information also appears on the Trinity website.

HERB BURHENN'S SUNDAY CLASS - Herb Burhenn's Sunday class will now begin at 10:30 am on ZOOM to accommodate the change in Trinity's worship schedule. We are continuing our study of Genesis. Please contact Herb (Herbert-Burhenn@utc.edu or 886-4167) to receive an invitation. The log-in information also appears on the Trinity website.

PRAYER REQUESTS – Please continue to send in your prayer requests via E-mail, phone message, or text. Thanks so much! We are still here for you and miss you all.

WORD IN SEASON - For the last several months, we have been mailing the Word in Season to anyone who has requested it. If you would like to be added to the list, let us know.

CAREGIVERS GROUP will resume meeting as soon as the council opens in-person gatherings. The group usually meets in the Trinity library at 6pm on the first Monday of the month for an hour of meditation and sharing. Dr. Janet Hope (a retired sociology professor) and Carol Burhenn (a retired RN and Parish Nurse) facilitate the group which has been gathering for several years. Anyone who is a caregiver or anticipating being one is invited to attend. All discussion is confidential, and the atmosphere is caring. Both men and women are welcome as are family members who are caring for someone who doesn't live nearby.

ONLINE SERVICE will be broadcast from the **Trinity Lutheran – Worship Central** Facebook Page. A **LINK** to the group is on the front page of our website.

Service will NOW be held at 9:30 am. In-person, outdoor service will be at 8:15 am.

VENMO– Our username is **@trinitylutheran**. Thank you to our members who use this service. We hope it is useful to your family.

The Mayflower has been called "the little ship that built America."

This November marks the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower bringing the "Pilgrims" to Plymouth, Massachusetts. Most of the festivities planned for this fall have now been cancelled due to the pandemic, but there is no reason we cannot celebrate the 400th here in Hixson.

Pastor John Sims and his wife Phyllis are both Mayflower descendants. David Bergevin and Vicki McGuire can also trace their roots back to the Mayflower. How many TLC folks are descendants? It would be interesting to see...and perhaps by November, we can all celebrate together at a special church event.

If you are a Mayflower descendant, please contact Pastor Sims by e-mail (jsims99@comcast.net) or telephone. You do not have to be a certified member of the GSMD. If you need help researching your family, Pastor Sims will be glad to assist you.



***Trinity Lutheran Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020
9:30 AM***

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

WELCOME/PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

People: Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (read responsively)

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND LESSON Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL**Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *(sit)*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Elise Anderson

SERMON

Pastor Elise Anderson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

**Guide me ever, Great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty.
Hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore, ^{evermore}
Feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Where the healing waters flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer
Shield me with your mighty arm, ^{mighty arm}
Shield me with your mighty arm.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Death and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises
I will raise forevermore, ^{evermore}.
I will raise forevermore.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

AM: You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM: Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM: Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Especially do we lift up to... Sandy Buelow, Lillian Vernon & Brenda Guillory (Laura's grandmother & Aunt, home loss in hurricane), The family of Eddie Polito (Art Minninger), Katy Allison, Bruce & Amy Annear (Fran Balsis), Lynn Ayers (Cree Giesel), Scott Baily (Fran Balsis), Alice Barnett, Colin Bakse (Sondra Hart), Bill Balsis, Bonnie Bean (James Craig), Theresa Bowman, Josie Boyd, Doug & Jan Buck, as well as all those whom we name in our hearts or out loud before you now. Lord in your mercy... **Hear our Prayer.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE *(stand and share the peace in non-touching ways)*
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(stand)*

AM: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might

live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Come to the banquet table
where Christ gives himself as food and drink. **Amen**

Litany of thanks

While we are grateful to celebrate communion with bread and wine today, we must also remember that eucharist literally translates to thanksgiving! We are grateful today and all days for all that God has put into our lives and the ways in which God's love manifests itself in these times. We invite you to take a moment to share what you are grateful for today and ways that you have witness God's work in your life this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Go in peace, Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**