

Trinity Presbyterian Church + *Worship at Home*

March 21st, 2021 - 10 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

The principle runs through all life from top to bottom. Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.

— C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity

Call to Worship (responsive)

Minister: Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

People: the Maker of heaven and earth.

Minister: Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

PRAISE

Hymn Bless His Holy Name — music below

Bless His Holy Name

Words and Music by
Andraé Crouch

$\text{♩} = 84$ CHORUS

$E\flat$ $E\flat^7$ $B\flat^7/F$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $B\flat^7/F$ $E\flat^7/G$

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is with -

VERSE

4 $A\flat^2$ $A\flat$ $A\flat m(maj7)$ $A\flat m^6$ $E\flat/B\flat$ $C^{\circ}/B\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat$ Cm^6

-in me, bless His ho - ly name. He has done great

9 $B\flat$ $Cm/B\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^{sus}/C$ $B\flat^7/D$ $E\flat$ $Fm/E\flat$ $E\flat$ $E\flat/G$ $E\flat^7/G$

things, He has done great things, He has done great

13 CHORUS

$A\flat$ $A\flat m^2/F$ $A\flat m/F$ $E\flat/B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat$ $E\flat^7$
 things; Bless His ho - ly name. Bless the Lord,

17 $B\flat^7/F$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $B\flat^7/F$ $E\flat^7/G$ $A\flat^2$ $A\flat$ $A\flat m^{(maj7)}$ $A\flat m^6$
 oh my soul, and all that is with - in me, bless His

20 $E\flat/B\flat$ $C^\circ/B\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$
 ho - ly name.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in a key signature of two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The first staff (measures 13-16) includes a boxed 'CHORUS' label above the first measure. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (half), A4 (half), G4 (half), F4 (half). The second staff (measures 17-19) notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (half), A4 (half), G4 (half), F4 (half). The third staff (measures 20-22) notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (half), A4 (half), G4 (half), F4 (half). Chord symbols are placed above the notes.

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Prayer of Adoration (concluded by the following prayer in unison)

**Almighty and everliving God,
 in your tender love for the human race
 you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ
 to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross,
 atoning for our sins and giving us the example of his great humility:
 Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering,
 and also share in his resurrection;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 praise him, all creatures here below;
 praise him above, ye heavenly host:
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

RENEWAL

Confession of Sin: (unison)

God our Father, we confess our sins. Help us to nail to the cross of your dear Son this whole body of death, the wrong desires of the heart, the sinful devisings of the mind, the corrupt apprehensions of the eyes, the cruel words of the tongue, the poor employments of hands and feet; so that the old person being crucified and done away, the new person may live and grow into the glorious likeness of your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement & Declaration of Pardon

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

[Psalm 32:1-2 (NIV)]

Words of Welcome

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements start on page 9.

Hymn **God, Be Merciful to Me** — music on page 4

623

God, Be Merciful to Me

PSALM 51:1-2, 10-19

E^b B^b A^b E^b B^b Fm7/A^b E^b

1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me; on your grace I rest my plea.
2 Gra - cious God, my heart re - new; make my spir - it right and true.
3 So shall sin - ners be re - stored and re - turn to you, their Lord;

B^b A^b E^b B^b F^{sus} F7 B^b

My trans - gres - sions I con - fess; grief and guilt my soul op - press.
In your pres - ence let me stay; by your Spir - it show the way.
Sav - ior, all my guilt re - move, and my tongue shall sing your love;

E^b B^b/F A^b E^b Fm E^b/B^b B^b E^b

Wash me, make me pure with - in; cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
Your sal - va - tion's joy im - part, stead - fast make my will - ing heart.
touch my si - lent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord.

COMMITMENT

A Litany of Thanksgiving for Life within the Church

We give you thanks and praise, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have called us into your fellowship: For those who first taught us to pray and opened the Gospels to us;*

we give you thanks.

For those who stood with us at the font;*

we give you thanks.

For the abundant grace of baptism, by which we were granted forgiveness and a place in your kingdom;*

we give you thanks.

For the faith we confessed in the Creed and the call we accepted in the baptismal covenant;*

we give you thanks.

For the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the sign of the cross, marking us as your own;*

we give you thanks.

We give you thanks and praise, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have welcomed us at your Table;*

we give you thanks.

For the Word proclaimed and heard anew week by week: *

we give you thanks.

For hearing our prayers on behalf of the world, for those we love and our own needs;*

we give you thanks.

For accepting our gifts and making them part of your eternal offering to the Father;*

we give you thanks.

For giving us a place within the awe-filled hymn of all creation;*

we give you thanks.

For the regular remembrance of your passion, death, and resurrection;*

we give you thanks.

For the outward signs of inward grace you so freely give into our hands;*

we give you thanks.

For the peace that passes understanding and the joy of service;*

we give you thanks.

Grant us, O Lord, to receive with grateful hearts and attentive minds all that you would give us. Make us to know your grace and to believe your promises, to offer with generosity all that you ask of us and to follow where you lead, into lives of service and an eternity of joy in your presence.
Amen.

Scripture Lesson: John 12:20-33 (Read by Ethan Small)

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²²Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

[NIV]

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Higgins

*"WHAT SHALL I SAY?"
When Jesus Asks a Question*

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there 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.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since we cannot gather for Holy Communion, we join in an act of *spiritual communion*, trusting in our Lord's blessings & love in this present crisis.

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Communion. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The 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 and ever. Amen.

Hymn Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land— music below

138 Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

Musical score for 'Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land'. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat major). It features a melody line and a bass line. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and includes a triplet of eighth notes. Chords Fm and C7 are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are: 'Je-sus is a rock in a wear - y land, a wear - y land, a wear - y land; Je-sus is a rock in a wear - y land, a shel-ter in the time of storm.' The second system continues the melody and bass line. The third system includes chords Bbmaj7, Gm7, C7, and F, and a first ending bracket labeled '1' and a second ending bracket labeled '2 Fine last time'. The fourth system includes chords Bbm/G and C, and three verses of lyrics: '1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a mum-bling word he said; 2 When Je - sus was on earth the flesh was ver - y weak; 3 † Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him whom I love so well;'. The score ends with a double bar line.

Words: African American spiritual
 Music (WEARY LAND irregular): African American spiritual; sts. arr. Wyatt Tee Walker © 2000 Wyatt Tee Walker © admin. GIA Publications, Inc.; ref. Glen E. Burleigh © 1993 admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

he went walk - ing down to Laz - a - rus' grave, and he
 he took a towel and gird - ed him - self, and he
 he has the palm of vic - to - ry and the

raised him from the dead.
 washed his dis - ci - ples' feet. Je - sus is rock.
 keys of death and hell.

To Refrain

Benediction & Dismissal

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.¹

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude Master the Tempest is Raging — Horatio R. Palmer/Gina Sprunger

¹ From Numbers 6:24-26

WORSHIP ARTISTS

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Trinity Church. We appreciate all that your music has contributed to our worship. Copyrighted songs are covered under CCLI #1250499 and CCS #11071.

TAMMY LUM - PIANO
JORDAN WILHELM - VOICE

ALETHEA WILHELM - VOICE

Trinity Church Announcements

CELEBRATING CHRIST, SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

TODAY

The Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the Lenten season, traditionally a time of penitence and expectation in preparation for Easter. If you'd like more information, pick up a copy of Pastor Higgins' paper, "On Keeping a Holy Lent" (available on our website). Purple, the color of penitence, is used during the Lenten Season as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

- Palm Sunday, March 28; both online & in-person (10am, Women's Club of White Plains). We begin Holy remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with special music and a sermon by Pastor Higgins.
- Maundy Thursday, April 1; online only. A brief, simple Maundy Thursday service, with singing, a short homily by Pastor Swanson, and Spiritual Communion.
- Good Friday, April 2; online only. The solemn service of Good Friday includes readings of the passion narrative, contemplative music, and a homily by Pastor Higgins.
- EASTER EVE, April 3, 7:30pm; at the Church House (weather permitting). The Easter Vigil is the first celebration of Easter and a service for the whole family. This will be a short, physically-distanced, outdoor service, including the lighting of the Easter fire, a brief meditation from Pastor Higgins, and Holy Communion.
- EASTER DAY, April 24; both online & in-person (10am, Women's Club of White Plains). Easter morning is one of the highlights of the year, featuring festive music and an Easter sermon by Pastor Higgins.

Let's Make Some Noise! Those of you who have attended our Easter Vigil on Easter Eve know that the kids (& adults!) are invited to bring noisemakers. This year, we'll be doing this both on Easter Eve & on Easter Day—even from home! I encourage you to make noisemakers or at least to dig out some whistles and shakers and other things to make some noise to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Happy Anniversary! This past Tuesday, March 16, marked the 24th anniversary of the organization of Trinity Church as a particular, self-governing Presbyterian congregation. On that date, at an afternoon service with the Rev. Dr. Tim Keller preaching, our first three elders (including Jim Courtney) were installed, and Pastor Higgins was installed as the pastor. Thanks be to God for his blessings over the years! (The Higgins family moved to Westchester in August 1994, preview services began in December 1994, & Trinity Church “launched” in June 1995.)

The Easter Sacrificial Offering is received each year during the Easter season, with the money going to the Trinity Church Mercy Team’s ministry to the physically & spiritually needy. Setting aside money (over & above one’s regular giving) for such an offering is a traditional Lenten discipline, and we encourage you to practice this—perhaps with your family and/or Community Group—during this holy season.

Prayer Focus for the Lenten Season. During Lent, as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection, we pray for God to do great things in our hearts. Specifically, we pray for the following:

- for a Holy Lent, a “springtime of the soul,” focused not on ourselves but on God & our neighbors;
- for hearts of joyful obedience to our Savior’s commandments & priorities, especially as we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves;
- for all who work for peace & justice among the nations of the world, especially organizations like World Vision;
- for a swift and just end to the global pandemic; and
- for our own personal commitment to justice, including saving for & giving to the Easter Sacrificial Offering.

TODAY—Service of Lament & Supplication—and Global Week of Prayer. As we observe the anniversary of the pandemic-related shutdowns, many Christian organizations are calling for the week of March 21 to be a Global Week of Prayer in which we lament the losses of the last year and pray for the END of global pandemic.

- To start off the week, Pastor Higgins will lead a Service of Prayer & Supplication for *anyone* who would like to participate; this service will be held on Sunday, March 21, at 12 noon on Zoom. This service is a time to look back on the past year and its losses, but also to thank God and to pray for the better days that are ahead! The service should last approximately 30 minutes.
- Even if you can’t join in this service on Zoom, we invite you to use the prayer guide from World Vision during this Week of Prayer.

COMING UP

SERMON/HOMILY SCHEDULE *(subject to change as we deal with the pandemic)*

NOTE: Briefer homilies will be given at the in-person services. For the full sermon on the same text, visit the audio & video recordings on the webpage.

March 28. PALM SUNDAY. John 13:1-17. "Do You Understand What I Have Done for You?" Pastor Higgins preaching

April 1. MAUNDY THURSDAY. Homily by Pastor Swanson on John 6:25-29

April 2. GOOD FRIDAY. John 19:19-22. "A Different Kind of King, A Different Kind of Kingdom." Homily by Pastor Higgins

April 3. EASTER EVE. Brief meditation by Pastor Higgins

April 4. EASTER DAY. John 11:17-27. "The Resurrection & the Life. Pastor Higgins preaching

April 11. Acts 4:32-35. "Resurrection Power." Pastor Swanson preaching

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

Service of Lament and Supplication. In lieu of Healing Prayer, on Sunday, March 21, Pastor Higgins is planning to offer (online) a Service of Lament and Supplication marking one year of the global pandemic. More information will be announced in the newsletter.

Youth Group Gatherings. We plan to start up discipleship again with the Middle and High Schoolers on Saturday, March 27th at 11am. We may need to meet indoors that day, so do let Pastor Mark know if you have any questions. We will keep the groups distanced and everyone will be required to wear masks. However, if we can have our time outdoors, we will do so. Please RSVP for this event as soon as possible.

Baptisms/New Memberships. We are happy to announce that we're planning for a service of Holy Baptism and the reception of new members—to take place soon! We are planning this for an outdoor service at the Church House on Easter Eve; that's Saturday, April 3, weather permitting. If we are not able to make that service, we will plan for Easter Sunday or the first possible Sunday morning after that when the weather allows us to be outdoors.

- If you would like to be baptized, to have a child baptized, or to be received as a member of Trinity Church, or if you simply have questions, please contact Pastor Higgins. Even if you know you cannot attend on Easter Eve, please let Pastor Higgins know of your interest, as another service will be scheduled for a bit later in the spring.

Regular members and attenders. Our Elders and Deacons are planning to make another round of calls to the congregation, just to check in with you all and to hear how you and your families are doing. Once you receive a call or email, please respond as soon as possible so that we can have conversations with everyone sometime over the next few weeks. If you did not receive a call by the end of the first week of April, please contact Pastor Mark Swanson. We look forward to speaking with you soon!

Annual Congregational Meeting. In keeping with our church bylaws, April 18 is the date set for our Annual Congregational Meeting. However, due to the pandemic this may be delayed or moved online. Please pay attention to the newsletter for more information.

Healing Prayer. Anyone wishing to pray for healing (physical, spiritual, emotional) for themselves, for loved one, and (especially now!) for the world, is invited to join Pastor Higgins for a brief liturgy of healing prayer. The service is scheduled to be held on Sundays at 11:30 on Zoom. The service will last for approximately 15 minutes. Login information will be in the church newsletter.

- Next Healing Prayer Service: April 14th

Adult CE Class. Pastor Mark and Ann Higgins are leading a class Tish Harrison Warren's "Prayer in the Night" as an online adult education offering meeting on Wednesdays at 7pm. Tish Harrison Warren's book explores themes of vulnerability, suffering and God's seeming absence, structured around the nighttime prayer of Compline. Please contact Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

Ways to Give:

- **We encourage giving online** through our secure website link on our church website: <https://www.trinitychurchny.com/giving/> Or, through our mobile app, *TrinityChurchNY*. Your faithful giving is not only an act of worship but is much appreciated by the Trinity Church leadership as we desire to continue ministry no matter what adjustments are necessary to meet current challenges. **If giving by check, mail it to the church office at 526 Anderson Hill Rd, Purchase, NY 10577.**

- **COVID-19 Support** - On our church website, www.trinitychurchny.com, you will find a link labeled "COVID-19 Update" which is a letter from our pastors encouraging us all to be there for one another, and to assist you in doing so that we might BE the church God intends us to be. There are links to forms to Give Help (volunteer) and Get Help (specify a need).

Ways to Connect:

- **Website:** www.TrinityChurchNY.com
- **SOCIAL MEDIA: Facebook:** Trinity Presbyterian Church NY, **Facebook Group:** Trinity People Staying In Touch, **Instagram:** TrinityChurchNY
- **Church Mobile App:** TrinityChurchNY
- **Community Groups:** via video-conferencing. To join one, use our website Contact Form.
- **Prayer Team Support:** You can submit a prayer request using our mobile app or contact form on our website. Our Prayer Team would be pleased to pray for you.
- **Pastoral Care:** Call the church office 914-967-6247 and choose from the voice menu who you wish to speak to, or use the church website contact form and your request will be forwarded.
- **Newsletters:** to be added to the mailing list, use the church website Contact Form.