

Key Scripture - Acts 1:3

... After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.



Theme - Proving Jesus is Alive

Welcome All

- Newcomers please sign our guestbook 
- Special requests may be made through Facebook  
- Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation and is inclusive of folk who find themselves a part of what is described as “LGBTQ+”
 - Our church building is closed but our Congregation is Open and Active in a Ministry of Prayer, Service and Care
 - Church business will be conducted remotely as much as possible
 - Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook and our WebPage

Welcome and Announcements

This week's Phone Tree Message - 20 May 2020

- Comfort

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1:15, 16

Gracious God, you desire faith in you, love for your people and a heart for service. We thank you for drawing us together as a community of faith, united in your love even in times when it is hard to gather. Equip us to continue the work that is being done in Your name during this present crisis.

May we be a faithful witness to your promise of resurrection and new life as we serve you in the world. Amen.

- Communication
 - Trinity United Church News and Updates -
 - Our Congregation is active in Prayer, Care and Service
 - Worship Services are replayed

- On COGECO - Your TV Sundays at 10:00 and 2:00
- On the Trinity Web Page and FaceBook at our regular Service Time, 10:30 Sunday Morning
- **This Sunday's Scripture speaks to Looking for Jesus -**
- **Key Scripture - Acts 1:11**
 - **"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."**
- **We find Jesus where his work is. Rather than looking up and away, we look around and near us ... Jesus is with us now.**
- **Next Sunday is Pentecost. We would normally celebrate Communion. The Table will be set. COVID-19 may alter aspects of our faith expression but it need not take it away altogether.**
- Thank You to Arlene Hunter and all those who are making and distributing non-medical face masks.
- Food Distribution continues. Please contact Betty Lou Kempt at 613-291-0701 if you would like to help
- We are able to deliver lunches to your home.
- **Cynthia Sirett and the Christian Community Team have organized the delivery of 33 lunches this week.** Names are confidential. However, the few folk who are permitted to assemble the lunches (we are limited by health regulations) see the list as we prepare. **We pray silently for each person as the lunch is assembled.**
- **If a lunch delivered to your home would be helpful, we will serve as we are able. Contact the Office and Gwenda will let us know.**
- We are mindful about finances
- **Geraniums will be available for Pickup**
 - **Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, pickup for the geraniums on May 30th will be a little different this year.**
 - **The geraniums will be available in the parking lot. If your name starts with a letter between**
 - A and D - 8:00am - 9:00am,**
 - E and H - 9:00am and 10:00am,**
 - J and P - 10:00am and 11:00am, and**
 - R and W - 11:00am and 12:00pm**
 - **The more people who can work within this schedule, the better. However, if a few folk miss their timing or have to come earlier, we will still be able to help.**
- Please consider Pre-Authorized Payments (PAR) as a consistent way to support the congregation
- Grocery / Gift Cards are still available for sale - Contact the Church Office at - 613 283 4444
- Connection
 - If you would like the latest posts from the church but have not been receiving updates by email, we may not have your address.
- Care

- The Healing Pathway Team and others are actively praying together starting at 1:00 pm every Wednesday.
- Today and in the days ahead, we remember Jean Tuck as she is saddened by the loss of her husband, John. We pray Peace and Comfort.

If you want to be contacted regularly by phone, contact the church and let us know - the church office number is - 613 283 4444

COVID-19 Community Meal Distribution Points		
Monday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican Delivery Only	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Tuesday	Trinity United Church - Brown Bag & Blessing Front Foyer - 41 Market Street	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesday	St Francis de Sales - St. Vincent de Paul Society 4 McGill St (Hanlev Hall)	12:00 - 12:30 pm
Thursday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican Delivery Only	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Friday	Mississippi Rideau Lakes - Salvation Army 251 Brockville St	11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday	Trinity United Church - Volunteers from - SFDCI Front Foyer - 41 Market Street	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Sunday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican Delivery Only	11:00 am - 12:30 pm



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals offered during this State of Emergency are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and COVID-19 emergency funds.

We are grateful for the teachers and staff of SFDCI and Duncan J. Schoular Public School who volunteer on Saturdays.

Two Guys for Lunch are active partners with us in this community service.

People who prepare and people who serve are screened. Conditions under which the food is prepared is consistent with best practices respecting COVID-19

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Elements of today's Worship Service are drawn from the Presbyterian Church in Canada online Worship Planner

Introit MV221 "I Am Walking the Path of Peace"

Call to Worship

Let us be joyful! Let us be jubilant this day.

We will sing praises to God's holy name.

Let us lift up our voice to the One who rides upon the clouds,
For God protects orphans and widows, and gives the desolate a home.
Sing, O nations of the earth;
We will raise praise to the Lord, our God!

Prayer of Gathering

God of history and eternity,
you came to us in Jesus, so that we might know you and love as he did.
Through Jesus you have given us a pattern for living,
and taught us to love one another and to forgive as we have been forgiven.
You promise that nothing can separate us from your love.

In ascending to be united with you,
he is now present to every creature in every corner of creation.
And so we wait with hopeful anticipation for the fullness of your redemption,
relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn 331 "The Church's One Foundation"

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
his living servant people, by his own death set free.

Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, 'How long?'
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Learning with Children

Where do you look for somebody who is not in the place where you last saw them?
You look in the places they used to hang out.

The Bible Story today is about when the disciples last saw Jesus. They are standing looking for him in the last place they saw him and they are looking into the air... Angels tell them to look elsewhere ...

Where would that be?

Where did Jesus hang out?

We look for Jesus in acts of kindness and care.

During this time of COVID-19 when it is hard to go out, the work and the presence of Jesus continues and we can all be a part of it. Some of you are helping with Face Masks. Some of you helped cheer people up by colouring on the sidewalk in front of the church. It was wonderful to see how the plain white dots were turned into flowers, rainbows and even friendly, colourful spiders.

Jesus was a healer - did you know that cheerful, loving words have the ability to make people feel and even be healthier? If you are not permitted to see your grandparents or great grandparents or great great grandparents, you can change a whole lonely day with loving words on the telephone or a card or even a page from your colouring book...

I think that if Jesus were alive and working through the hands of a little child, he would do things like that. When you are inspired to do these things in love and faithfulness, ... It is like Jesus is not far off in the sky but is right with you ... These are ways that we can find Jesus every day, ... especially in these days when we are far away from each other.

Prayer,

Dear Jesus, help us to find ways to live as you lived and love as you loved. Help us to find you in the things you teach and inspire us to do. AMEN

Call to Reconciliation

Let us join together as we admit our human frailty -

Prayer of Confession

**God of our days and all the days to come,
we confess that we feel lost,
waiting for your promised redemption in such uncertain times.**

**You made us for unity in community,
yet we nurse grievances and settle for unresolved tensions.**

**You commissioned to be witnesses to Christ's ministry,
yet we find it hard to share our experience of your love and grace.**

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news! Jesus Christ is our High Priest and Advocate, interceding before God the Father on our behalf.

Know that his love for us is undying. Trust that you are forgiven through his grace, and with his courage, forgive one another.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace. **Amen.**

Scripture Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 93 (VU 813); Luke 24:44-53
Acts 1:1-11 (NRSV)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV)

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Hymn 402 "We Are One"

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.

We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share; as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.

We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.

We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

Reflection

Forrest Gump is a wonderful movie. If you are carefully and wisely staying at home and have not watched it yet or have not watched it *again*, yet; I recommend that you do so.

Forrest did not just stumble into things, he was where he was on purpose. Those who think that he was ruled by chance *over value intellectual intent*, they see randomness or chance because Forrest's decisions were not *calculated*. However, there is *emotional intent*, there is *moral intent*, Forrest's decisions were inspired by a sense of goodness, of loyalty and love.

In all of Forrest's circumstances that some say were chance happenings, Forrest is where he is because he chose to be. He is obedient to love, he is obedient to loyalty and he is obedient to service. Saying that Forrest Gump's life was ruled by chance because he was cognitively limited is to ignore one of the movie's key lessons, "**Stupid is as stupid does.**" By this measure, Forrest was proven brilliant despite a low IQ. The results were a College Degree, saving most of his platoon in Vietnam, becoming a professional ping pong player, the owner of Bubba Gump Shrimp company and believing that Lt Dan's destiny was life and not death and causing Lt Dan to see and experience that through kindness and friendship.

Folk around Forrest Gump would argue that his brilliance was absent, yet his work and effect of that work demonstrated the presence of pure genius. "**Stupid is as stupid does.**" Forrest Gump's goodness, loyalty and love fueled a brilliance shared by a very few. The proof of his genius lay in his accomplishments.

Luke begins his account with -

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven,

Luke concludes with -

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

In Luke's summary or introduction, Jesus' ascension and return are tied to *all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning*. "*All that Jesus did and taught from the beginning*" was part of his ascension. This whole event from the Baptism in the Jordan to the ascension is one story. The desire to see him, therefore, is dependent upon or linked to *all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning*. So, if you are looking for Jesus, do not look into the sky, look to everything Jesus did *all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning*. It is here that you will find him, alive and active and present.

Forrest Gump would say, "**Stupid is as stupid does.**" Luke tells us that, "**Jesus is where Jesus does.**"

The disciples are looking for Jesus in the last place they saw him... The messengers say that Jesus will be seen where you always saw him in *all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning*. Where is Jesus today?... Where he always was, where he always is, where he always will be - Amongst those in need, those living and active in service, in love, in charity.

Jesus will be seen where you always saw him in *all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning*. Jesus is alive and present as meals are distributed and delivered at St John the

Evangelist Anglican, Trinity United Church, St Francis de Sales - St. Vincent de Paul Society - Hanley Hall, Mississippi Rideau Lakes - Salvation Army. You will see Jesus there.

Jesus will be seen where you always saw him in ***all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning***. Jesus is alive and present in hands at work making masks, gathering fabric, elastics, button buddies and distributing them on Tuesday and Saturday. If you want to see Jesus living and active, look there.

Jesus will be seen where you always saw him in ***all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning***. Jesus is alive and present as folk gather for prayer and restoration through our Healing Pathway Ministry. Jesus is most assuredly present.

Many folk have been praying for Jean and John Tuck - This week, John found peace and release as he had a comforting vision in his hospital bed - Jesus with us in life and in death, an echo of our New Creed - "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God." Jesus will continue to be found in our prayers as we pray for ongoing peace and comfort. This is where Jesus always has been.

Jesus will be seen where you always saw him in ***all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning***. Jesus is alive and present in encouraging devotions posted and shared on Facebook, through faithful maintenance and updates to our Website.

Jesus will be seen where you always saw him in ***all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning***. Jesus is alive and present in our Phone Tree. The voice of Jesus may be heard in the voice of Tom Foukles, Brenda King, Donna Egan and many others who faithfully reach out providing a caring voice whether they be a part of the Phone Tree or not.

Jesus is alive and active in all you do as acts and words of love and grace and care always.

"Stupid is as stupid does." By this measure, Forrest Gump was brilliant - motivated not by intellect but obedience to love, obedience to loyalty and obedience to service.

"Jesus is where Jesus does." By this measure, Jesus is very much alive and among us - present not in body perhaps but in acts and words of kindness, of grace and of comfort. Jesus has always been alive in your congregation. Your response to our present circumstance shows him very much alive and present today.

Jesus will be seen where you always saw him in ***all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning***.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, ...

"..., why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

If you are looking for Jesus, do not look into the sky, look to ***all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning***. It is here that you will find him, alive and active and present - even in our place, in our time and in our people. AMEN.

Hymn 427 "To Show by Touch and Word"

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,

To hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,

We need, O God, the will to find the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,

Our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face we need your guidance and your grace.
Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
And let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have your wits about us where we live.

**We Respond to God's Word
Offering Ourselves
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

Invitation to Offering

This Sunday brings the season of Easter to a close. Yet we will continue to receive the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation, for God is so good to us. We offer to God our thanks for such goodness in our tithes and offering.

Trinity Needs Your Help

During these trying times, Trinity's life and work continues in many ways. While our Sunday services and many other things in our lives are on hold until further notice, and our building is closed, our staff and members are still active and operational costs continue.

There will be no opportunity for the regular collection of offerings each week, so Trinity needs you to share your gifts in a different way. We have 4 options:

1. Please visit the www.trinityunitedsf.ca and use the "DONATE" button. It takes you to CanadaHelps.org where you can make a safe and secure, one time or monthly donation as often as you want.
2. This may also be a good time to start using Pre-authorized Payments. The form for that is attached to this post and can be printed off and mailed to the church office at 41 Market Street / PO Box 28, Smiths Falls, K7A 2E7
3. We have also set up an e-transfer account to accept your donation. Please use secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca . Password not required. Please note your envelope number and amount allocated to general church expenses, M&S. and/or capital projects.
4. Of course you can always mail a donation to the church office at 41/ PO Box 28 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

If you require assistance or have any questions about making donations, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 613-283-4444 or by email at secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca.

Thank you.

***Offering Prayer**

Eternal and ever-present God, we offer you these gifts in thanksgiving for the work of Christ in our lives. Bless them and us with the power of the Spirit, enlisting all our gifts for the work of reconciliation Christ has given us to do in the world you love. Amen.

Meditation "Chorale on 'Humility'" (Archer)

Prayers of the People

Gracious God,

We thank you for drawing us together as a community of faith, united in your love even in times when it is hard to gather. Equip us to witness to your promise of resurrection and new life as we serve you in the world.

Daily life has been uprooted by the pandemic. Send your Spirit of healing and reconciliation to lead people to peace with justice. Heal the earth and bring hope for renewed relationships. Help us learn from this anxious time how you invite us to live in balance with each other and with your whole creation.

We pray for the work of healing and reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and those who have settled in this land. Send your Spirit to guide our leaders and build trust and respect among us all. Heal the lives limited by misunderstanding and bring hope for just resolutions to problems of long-standing. Increase a spirit of generosity as the nation begins to rebuild social structures damaged in the pandemic, so that the needs of Indigenous Peoples will not be overlooked.

We feel sadness for those whose lives are marked by isolation and fear, by grief or despair, effects deepened by the times of physical distancing. Send your Spirit of healing and reconciliation to draw the lonely into friendships, and as society begins to reopen, create a true sense of belonging for each one. Heal any burden of grief and bring hope through your eternal friendship.

We remember the family of Capt. Jenn Casey, who was killed in the Canadian Armed Forces Snowbirds crash last Sunday.

We pray for Jean Tuck as the sorrow of John's passing rests fresh upon her. We thank you that John found peace and release as he had a comforting vision in his hospital bed; a reminder that "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God." May Jesus continue to be found in our prayers as we pray for ongoing peace and comfort.

Send your Spirit to guide our witness in the world. Teach us how to share our experience of your love and invite others to join the journey toward healing and reconciliation.

We are thankful that we can experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - Mother, Father, Fiend -

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

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,
for ever and ever Amen

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn MV 145 "Draw The Circle Wide"

Refrain -

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

*Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle, 'Round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever, In God's gracious arms.

Refrain -

Let our hearts touch far horizons, So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, Faithful to God's call.

Refrain -

Let the dreams we dream be larger Than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, Open every door.

Refrain -

Benediction

The hour has come to live,
**where our worship will continue
in every moment of our lives.**

The hour has come to serve,
**to shoulder the burdens of our sisters,
to ease the pain of our brothers.**

The hour has come to glorify God,
**with our prayers as well as our praise,
with songs as well as acts of service.**

Choral Amen

Postlude "RCAF March Past" (Davies)