



Second Sunday Of Easter - C
April 28, 2019
Affirm Celebration



If you welcome those outside
of the middle, they are included;
if you close the circle, those
outside are rejected.

We Widen Our Circle



*We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to All
We are delighted to welcome a guest soloist this morning, JoAnn Chin*

- † Newcomers please sign our guest book
- † Pew cards with special requests may be placed with your offering
- † 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+”
 - We have large print bulletins
 - We have a child-friendly space overlooking the sanctuary
 - The Church Office is open Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join us for hospitality in the Fellowship Hall

Ushers - Joanne Hunter, Maryn Hunter, Judy Drummond, Marg Hanson

Greeters - Mary and Bill Weeks

Announcer - Diane Bennett

Reader - Owen Wrightly

Welcome and Announcements

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

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

Introit - MV 21 "Open Our Hearts"

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship -

Sue Newport

The rainbow is a sign of diversity and hope,
a reminder of the covenant made between God and humanity.

Chris Dickson

Purple is the colour of grape and lilac, strength and dignity.
Profound and majestic, colour of spirit: purple.
Thank you God! (purple sand is poured)

Kristina Mausser

Blue is the colour of sky and mountain ridge, depth and inspiration.
Soaring and fluent, colour of harmony: blue.
Thank you God! (blue sand is poured)

Betty-Lou

Green is the colour of inchworm and pine, calm and growth.
Restful and abundant, colour of nature: green.
Thank you God! (green sand is poured)

Heather Quinn

Yellow is the colour of lemon and sun, joy and enthusiasm.
Radiant and bold, colour of hope: yellow.
Thank you God! (yellow sand is poured)

Cathy Pickup

Orange is the colour of pumpkin and flame, warmth and compassion.

Bright and enlivening, colour of healing: orange.

Thank you God! (orange sand is poured)

Brenda King

Red is the colour of strawberry and rose petal, passion and birth.

Sweet and vivacious, colour of life: red.

Thank you God! (red sand is poured)

Lorraine Ryan

In God's sight, all humanity is a rainbow people.

Come, let us worship God together.

Prayer of Gathering

Holy God -

the tomb has been opened,
and we grow into your future.

Your life has dawned on us,
and we surround you with our praise.

You reach out your hand,
and lead us into joy.

Jesus Christ -

you open our hearts
and come in to be with us forever.

You breathe peace into our souls,
so we may bring healing
to a troubled world.

Holy Spirit -

You show us our hearts,
so we may give love to others.

You show us our hands,
sending us to serve the needy.
You show us your hope,
so we may live in your joy.

God of Easter Resurrection,
who is, who was, and who is to come,
hear us as we worship You.

Amen.

Hymn - 177 "This Joyful Eastertide"

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a sea - son
3 Death's flood has lost its chill, since Je - sus crossed the

The first system of the hymn is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with three verses of text provided for each line of music.

sor - - - row! My love, the cru - ci -
slum - - - ber, till trump from east to
ri - - - ver; lov - er of souls, from

The second system of the hymn continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are written below the notes, with three verses of text provided for each line of music. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef.

fied, has sprung to life this mor - - - row.
west shall wake the dead in num - - - ber.
ill my pass - ing soul de - liv - - - er.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day pris - on,

our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ a - ris - en,

a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - - - en.

Who makes the rules?
For whom do you make the rules?
What causes rules to change?
What happens if you do not change the rules?

Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained

Jesus gave us Power and Permission to change. Can we say we are faithful if we do not?

Call to Reconciliation

God comes into our hearts when we least expect, so we can be filled with forgiveness, with hope, with peace. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

God of empty tombs -

**When we hesitate to speak of your hope,
forgive us, and give us a voice.**

**When we find it difficult to love one another,
forgive us, and give us fresh compassion.**

**When we want to stand with the self-important,
forgive us, and seat us next to the poor and oppressed.**

**When we lock ourselves behind our fears and doubts,
forgive us, and send us out to share your grace.**

**When we cannot believe your Word of new life,
forgive us, and fill us with your joy.**

Scriptures - Psalm 118:14-29 (VU 837 Parts 2, 3 & 4)



Part Two (14–18)

God is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation.

There are shouts of joy and deliverance in the tents of the righteous.
The right hand of God does mighty things; the right hand of God raises up.

The right hand of God does mighty things.

I shall not die, but live; and I shall proclaim what God has done.

God indeed punished me, but did not give me over to death. R

Part Three (19–24)

Open to me the gates of the temple, that I may enter and give thanks to God.

This is the gate of God, through it the righteous shall enter.

I thank you for you have answered me; you have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it! R

Part Four (25–29)

Save us, O God, we pray;

God, we pray, give us success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;

with palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will extol you.

John 20:19-28

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Anthem - “Born This Way” by Lady Gaga, sung by JoAnn Chin

Reflection - We Widen Our Circle

As part of our journey in becoming an Affirming Congregation, Trinity has embarked on a series of activities to reconcile this possibility with our feelings and faith and to illuminate the question with the light of Scripture. We have considered how our exploration is consistent with our

ancient Scripture and Traditions of the Church.

We follow the Revised Common Lectionary every Sunday, a three-year cycle of weekly Scripture Readings used by the majority of mainline Protestant churches. Not once have we changed the readings to fit the theme of Affirm. We did not resort to proof texting in order to twist the Word of God to our favour. We have been faithful and what we found by doing so was remarkable and Affirming. This includes the readings for today. Today's lesson was not selected or altered as the perfect text to illuminate our Celebration. Just like all our other Services and suggested Scripture for the day, the Gospel Lesson fits perfectly and comfortably in providing a lesson of inclusion and adaptation.

When Jesus addresses his Disciples this morning he begins with, "Peace be with you." His words are immediately followed by that which brings peace -

Jesus says "Peace be with you" and offers Reassurance.

Jesus says "Peace be with you" and offers Purpose and Power to Change.

Jesus says "Peace be with you" and demonstrates Active Awareness and Inclusion.

"Peace be with you." What is required for the Peace Christ offers?

Reassurance - "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

The world in which the Disciples lived had fundamentally changed. Jesus was betrayed, beaten and crucified. The Disciples knew him to be dead. Their every hope was taken away. There could be no Peace as they

understood it without Jesus. Having Jesus with them was the first and most important criteria for Peace. **Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.**

Trinity is a Christian Church. Of first importance is our belief that Jesus is alive and with us. This, we believe, in this we rejoice. In this we find peace. In this, we celebrate just like that first band of Disciples huddled together in the Upper Room.

“Peace be with you.” What is required for the Peace Christ offers?

Purpose and Power to Change - “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

The world in which the Disciples lived would continue to change. The setting of the Gospel was much the same as before the crucifixion but the Disciples were only a generation away from the destruction of Jerusalem. Judea would be dispersed into the diaspora. The Priests, Pharisees and Temple would soon disappear. Jesus would remain with them through the agency of the Spirit. The world in which they lived while meeting Jesus in the Upper Room would soon come to an end.

When everything changes, there is no peace without Purpose and Power to adapt. We read of Sin and Forgiveness. These words carry one meaning in a religious context but they carry a different sense in the context of change. The word translated “forgive” means to permit to give space to. The word translated “Sin” is used in other ancient Greek writings in as an Archer hitting a target. “Sin” means to miss the mark. Jesus is saying, “You have the power, to permit a new mark in the new world.”

The early Church exercised this power often and generously as the

followers of Christ grew in relevance and relationship with the Greek Culture in which she found herself. Food Laws, Circumcision, ceremonial preparation, the role of women all changed... and changed quickly.

Every age is a change from the past. The church remains faithful to Jesus but reaches out to fulfill its purpose in a relevant way by exercising her power and authority to change. We celebrate our becoming an Affirming Congregation because we take the requirement and power to adapt seriously. Jesus and later the Apostle Paul, demonstrated this constantly. Exercising this power and responsibility is the reason we exist today.

If you consider the image of an archer, we change our aim because the target changes. Today, we understand those who fall under what may be described as LGBTQ+ differently than we did in the past. To maintain an old way of responding in light of a new understanding makes us irrelevant, there is no peace in this. It is contrary to our purpose and ignores the Permission and Power of the Holy Spirit.

“Peace be with you.” What is required for the Peace Christ offers?

Active Awareness and Inclusion - Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

Thomas has been poorly remembered. We have all heard or used the expression, “Doubting Thomas.” This arose from the fact that Thomas doubted the other disciples when they reported that they had seen Jesus alive. However, Thomas was not like the others. Where they might conclude that Jesus was alive because they had seen him, Thomas had good reason not to come to the same conclusion.

Thomas knew the other disciples. He had seen them make bold

pronouncements, only to be proven wrong. More importantly, Thomas had a nickname. We remember “Doubting Thomas,” however, the nickname assigned by his peers was “the Twin.” For the other disciples seeing Jesus after the crucifixion meant Jesus was alive. Thomas was a twin. There was another human being walking the earth that looked just like him. While others might say, “Jesus is Alive!” Thomas, had good reason to think, “Jesus was a twin.” Twins are distinguished by scars, tattoos and distinguishing marks, thus Thomas had to see not only a man who looked like Jesus but who carried the same scars.

Thomas was not a mere doubter; Thomas was a twin. Thomas sought the evidence a twin would require. Given his experience and context, Thomas made a totally legitimate request. **To miss this point is to miss the point all together. Thomas was not a doubter, he was born a Twin.** Jesus did not miss this point. Jesus made sure Thomas was included in a way that was specific to his needs, even though they were different than the other ten surviving Disciples. Just like Lady Gaga, Thomas could say, “Baby I was Born this Way.”

We have assigned a sin to Thomas for 2000 years without cause. For centuries, we have believed that sexual orientation and gender identity was the expression of a poor moral choice. In our age, we have learned and come to know that these are not choices but ways of being into which we are born. If this is the case, they cannot be regarded as missing the mark. If this is the case, we must adjust the target and make our circle wider.

This we do, this we have done, this we celebrate. This is in obedience to Jesus and consistent with the Purpose and Power of the Spirit he breathed upon the first Disciples in that Upper Room. This is consistent with the Purpose and Power of the Spirit he breathed upon us in this place, in this age.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Presentation of Affirming Certificate

Hymn - MV 154 "Deep In Our Hearts"

1 Deep in our hearts there is a com - mon vis - ion;
 2 Deep in our hearts there is a com - mon pur - pose;
 3 Deep in our hearts there is a com - mon long - ing;
 4 Deep in our hearts there is a com - mon vis - ion;

Am C F Dm⁷ G⁷sus⁴ G

deep in our hearts there is a com - mon song;
 deep in our hearts there is a com - mon goal;
 deep in our hearts there is a com - mon theme;
 deep in our hearts there is a com - mon song;

C G/F F Em⁷ Am

deep in our hearts there is a com - mon sto - ry,
 deep in our hearts there is a sa - cred mes - sage,
 deep in our hearts there is a com - mon cur - rent,
 deep in our hearts there is a com - mon sto - ry,

F Em⁷ Am F/G C G/C F/C G/C C

tell - ing Cre - a - tion that we are one.
 jus - tice and peace in har - mo - ny.
 flow - ing to free - dom like a stream.
 tell - ing Cre - a - tion that we are one.

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

Minute for Mission

Invitation to Offering

We could keep our treasures locked up or we can offer them back to God so that those who live in the shadows of poverty might be fed, those who walk the streets of loneliness might find a community, and those who long for peace might find an end violence.

Ushers will now receive our morning offering.

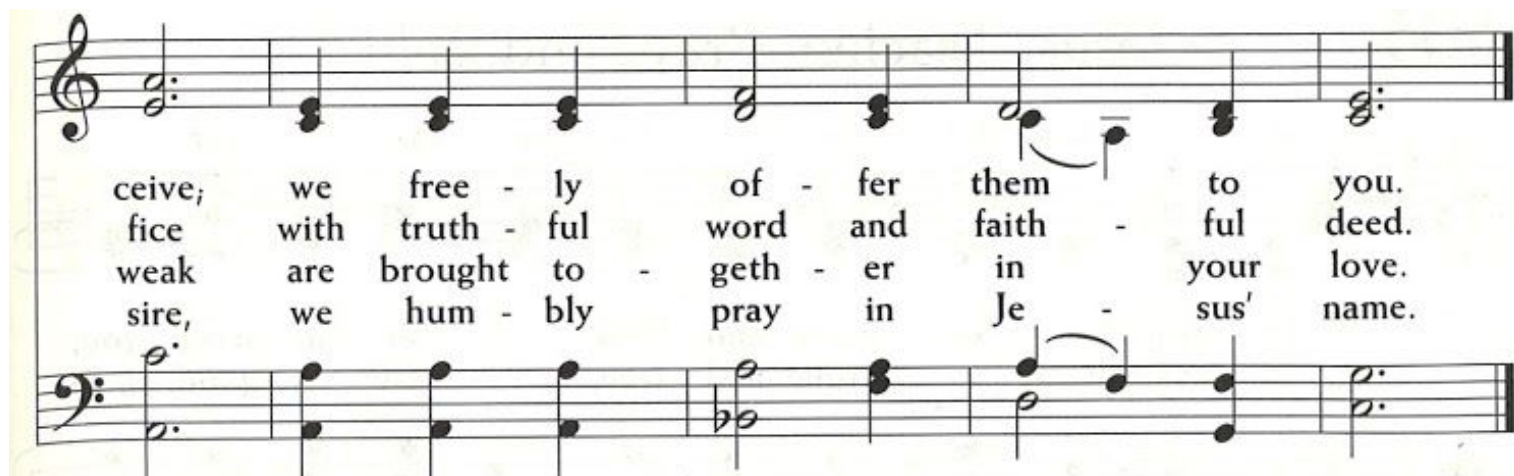
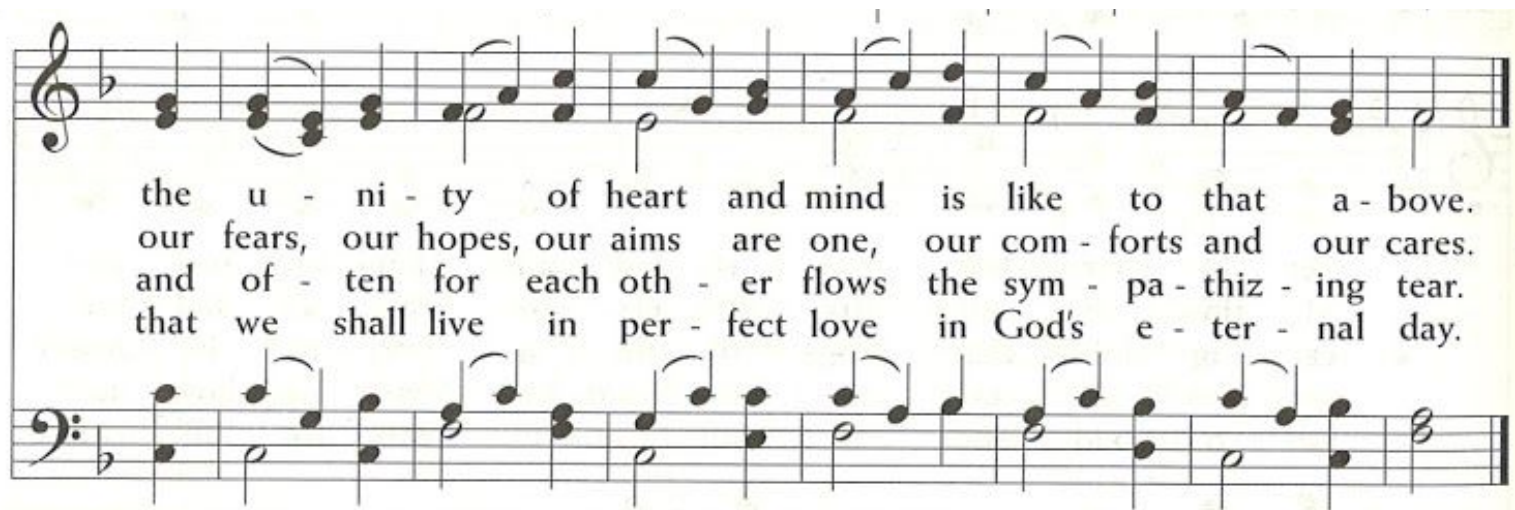
PAR "offering" recognition cards are available on the table next to the audio/video booth for those who wish to place one on the offering plate as you would an offering envelope.

Trinity's Website also has an option to donate. Just click on the "Donate" icon ...

Offertory - "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

***Offering Hymn - 603 "In Loving Partnership"**

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Mak - er's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear;
4 This glo - rious hope re - vives our cour - age on the way;



***Offering Prayer**

Prayers of the People

Prayers conclude with:

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

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn - 691 "Though Ancient Walls"

1 Though an - cient walls may still stand proud
 2 When vest - ed power stands firm en - trenced
 ♦ 3 The truth we seek in var - ied scheme,
 4 The church di - vid - ed seeks that grace,
 5 This bro - ken world seeks last - ing health

Ab Eb Fm Bb Eb Gm/D

and ra - cial strife be fact, though bound - aries may be
 and breaks an - oth - er's back, when waste and want live
 ♦ the life that we pur - sue, u - nites us in a
 that new - ness we pro - claim, a u - ni - ty of
 and vi - tal u - ni - ty. God's peo - ple by God's

Cm Eb Fm7 (Eb Fm7) Ab/Bb Bb Eb Eb7

lines of hate, pro - claim God's sav - ing act!
 side by side, it's Gos - pel that we lack.
 ♦ com - mon quest for self and world made new.
 serv - ing love that lives praise to God's name!
 Word re - newed, cast off all slav - er - y!

Refrain .1



Commissioning / Benediction

God sends us forth with songs of joy in our hearts.

We will sing of wonder to all who seek life.

Jesus calls us to step out of our fears into lives of witness.

We will breathe peace into the broken places around us.

The Spirit teaches us grace.

**We will take our sisters and brothers by the hand
and share the grace we have received.**

Choral Amen

Postlude - "The Rainbow Connection" (Choir)

Please consider the Postlude as fully part of the Worship Service and use it as a time of prayerful reflection as you prepare to leave the Sanctuary and enter the week and world that lies ahead.