



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Year A  
September 6, 2020

Key Scripture - Matthew 18:18

Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Theme - Words that Bind  
Words that Free



*Welcome All*

† Newcomers please sign our guestbook



† Special requests may be made through Facebook



[Contact Us](#)

† 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 Congregation is Active in a Ministry of Prayer, Service and Care.

## Welcome and Announcements

This week's Phone Tree Message - 2 September 2020

*“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Romans 8:38, 39

While we were separated from each other, we were never separated from the Love of God. We open the sanctuary for Sunday Worship on 13 September. While there will be limitations and many folk will remain at home for safety reasons, we are living in hope.

- **Worship in the sanctuary will begin next week, September 13**
- **Capacity and Support**
  - The sanctuary can accommodate 30 “Bubbles.”
    - 30 individuals or
    - family units to a maximum of 50 individuals
  - The church “lift” is available
  - One washroom at the sanctuary level will be available
  - Fellowship Hall and other facilities are out of bounds
- **Suspended Activities**
  - Communion
  - Fellowship Time
  - Children's programming
  - Congregational singing
  - “Passing the Plate” for Collection

- **Minimizing Exposure**
  - Risk assessment information will be available prior to worship
  - Health screening station will be set up outside
  - Entry, Exit and Movement within the sanctuary will be managed by Ushers
  - Post Service Cleaning and Disinfecting will be completed ASAP
  
- **Communication**
  - Posters will be prominently displayed in all critical areas as reminders regarding physical distancing, mandatory mask wearing and hand washing
  
- Trinity United Church News and Updates -
  - **Worship Services are again being broadcast on COGECO**
  - Services are available on Trinity's Web Page and FaceBook
  - **Sunday's Scripture speaks to our ability and responsibility to solve problems, make decisions and to change in the name of Jesus -**
    - **Key Scripture - Matthew 18:18**
      - **Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**
      - **Theme - Words that Bind and Words that Free**
        - **The context of this passage speaks to how we treat folk within our community who struggle. It also speaks to a choice that we are empowered to make. To bind folk or to set them free...**
  - If a lunch delivered to your home would be helpful, we will serve as we are able. Contact the Office.
  - **Now that School is about to start, our Teachers will no longer be available to volunteer.**

■ **If you would like to help, let Betty Lou Kempt know - 613 291 0701**

- A note from the Stewardship Team
  - 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

○ Care

- Please remember your mask when you leave your home.
- Masks are available at the church Tuesday and Saturday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and Sunday morning prior to worship. It is a blessing to know that we have many folk in our own Congregation and community who are so faithful in making masks so that all of us can be safer.



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

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

## **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 and adapted from the Presbyterian Church in Canada online Worship Planner.*

**Introit** MV14 "Where Two or Three are Gathered"

## **Call to Worship**

Sing to the Lord a new song.

**We will worship our Maker!**

Let your praise be with song and dance,

**For God is gracious and loving!**

Let us bring glory and honour,

**For God deserves our praise.**

## **Prayer of Gathering**

Your creative power is beyond imagining.

Your love is wider than the universe;

your mercy, greater than the heights of heaven;

your wisdom, deeper than the sea.

Maker of all things,

you became one of us in Jesus Christ,

and through your Spirit you are present with us in every place and every time.

We worship you, Creator, Christ, and Spirit,

one God, now and always,

**Amen.**

**Hymn** 245 "Praise The Lord With The Sound of Trumpet"

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,  
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,  
praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.

Praise the Lord in the field and forest,  
praise the Lord in the city square,  
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,  
praise the Lord in the dark of night,  
praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.

Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,  
praise the Lord on the highest hill,  
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,  
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,  
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.

Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,  
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,  
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.

Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,  
praise the Lord in the time of joy,  
praise the Lord in the every moment, nothing let your praise destroy.

Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,  
praise the Lord in your work or play,  
praise the Lord every where in every way!

## Learning with Children

I do not put puzzles together often although I love them. I love problem solving. The bigger the problem, the better I like it. Sometimes when I tell a story, I will say that I did something against the advice of other people. Lorraine says that is because I'm a contrarian. I think I like it because people telling me that something is too hard to do or something will not work is like a dare. When I am on a problem, I can spend a lot of time on it. Some people think I am patient. I am not sure if I am patient but I am determined... especially, if something is supposed to be hard. If you think something cannot be done... well dare me and let's try.

I have a problem though. I can be quite impatient with easy problems or with problems that should be easy. I hate not being able to do something that is supposed to be easy. I really have to watch what I say and how I act... Sometimes on a customer service chat or phone call, I have to start with, "I know, I am sure you are a wonderful person and my problem is not your fault... but I am quite frustrated with trying to make an easy thing work." If I buy a box of something and the label says, "This is hard to do," well that sounds like fun all day. If I buy something and it says, "Just plug it in and go," well, ... I become quite unhappy to spend even a few minutes to figure it out. Things that are easy should be easy. I do not like it when something that should be easy is hard...

The Bible reading today tells us how to sort out disagreements with our friends in the church. It is a bit of a process with no guarantee of success. You would think that it should be easy to sort out problems with people with whom you agree mostly... It should be like "Plug and Play." We seem able to do handstands to welcome strangers and sometimes cannot be reconciled with friends... I wonder if part of that is because we have an instinct to be impatient in relationships where we expect things to be easy... because of our impatience, we make an easy thing hard... and that just annoys us.

Maybe when we are in that situation sometimes we should remember, step back and say, "You know, this should be easy. I can make it easy by just letting it go..." Especially when the relationship or person is worth

more than thinking we are right on some issue that is not as important as the relationship itself...

### **Childrens' Prayer**

Dear God,

Help us to be patient when things are hard and especially when things are easy. Help us to remember who and what is really important in our life, our relationships, our families and our friends.

AMEN.

### **Call to Reconciliation**

In confidence and honesty, let us confess our sins to God and to one another

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Although Christ is among us as our peace,**

**We confess we are a people divided,**

**within ourselves and against each other.**

**We cling to the values and habits of a broken world.**

**The profit and pleasures we pursue harm creation and the lives of others.**

**The fears and jealousies we harbour set neighbour against neighbour,**

**and nation against nation.**

**The freedom and abundance we enjoy belong mostly to a few,**

**when they are God's gift to all.**

**Have mercy upon us.**

**Heal us, forgive us, and set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Paul declared that the night is far gone, the day is near. So let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Know that you are forgiven by God's grace and be at peace with God, with yourself and with each other.

**Scripture**      Psalm 149 (VU 873); Matthew 18:15-20

Psalm 149 (VU 873)

*Refrain -*

***Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

Sing to God a new song;

**give praise in the assembly of the faithful.**

Let Israel rejoice in its maker;

**Let the children of Zion exult in their Sovereign!**

Let them praise God's name with dancing;

**let them sing God's praise with tambourine and harp!**

*Refrain -*

***Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

For you, O God, take delight in my people;

**you crown the humble with victory.**

Let the faithful exult in their glory;

**let them sing for joy as they feast.**

*Refrain -*

***Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

Let God's praise be on their lips,

**the two-edged sword in their hands,**

to bring the nations to justice,

**and call to account the peoples,**  
to bind their rulers with fetters,  
**their great ones with bonds of iron,**  
to execute on them the sentence decreed.  
**This is the glory of all God's saints!**

*Refrain -*

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Matthew 18:15-20

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**Hymn** MV178 "Who Is My Mother?"

Who is my mother, who is my brother?  
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:  
Spirit-blown people born from the Gospel  
Sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled, differently labelled,  
Widen the circle round Jesus Christ:  
Crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,

All come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us colour or status  
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:  
family failings, human derailings  
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision, met for one mission  
We claim each other, round Jesus Christ:  
Here is my mother, here is my brother,  
Kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen!

### **Reflection - Grudge or a Gift**

Lending money to a friend or relative is one of the hardest easy things to do. When a friend or relative asks to borrow money, it may be hard because the person is embarrassed. However, it is easier than going to the bank, ... otherwise your friend or relative would be signing papers instead of talking to you.

What makes borrowing from a friend or relative easy?

Very often, the loan is open-ended... The terms of repayment are looser than a bank's ... It is awkward and cumbersome to write down terms of repayment or deal with interest. Again, if they are coming to you, it is because you're easier; fewer details, if any at all

However, that ease sometimes leads to complications ... the sense of urgency in repaying the loan is reduced. It is common that the rest of life, other obligations and emergencies take precedence and repayment is pushed back... after all, you are a friend or a relative, ... you understand and are forgiving ... You are not threatening or intimidating.

Of course, because you are a friend or a relative ... Well, you do not want to be pushy in asking... it is awkward ... you do not want to put stress on the relationship... Ironically, this may be stressful ...

Awkward goes both ways ... the one who borrows may feel indebted to the one who loaned ... the dynamics of the relationship shifts ... An

inequality is introduced. If the borrower feels awkward, he or she may assume that you feel awkward or even dismayed ... their interactions may begin to reflect that ... so the borrower becomes elusive or defensive ....

Oh, yes ... It is quite possible that the circumstance that caused the borrower to approach you has not changed, ... he or she may ask again ... without having repaid the original loan ... As Alice in Wonderland would say, "The situation becomes curiouser and curiouser."

An easy solution, borrow from a friend or relative when a bank is complicated ... carries a good possibility of its own complications ... Something that is thought to be easy becomes hard precisely *because it was supposed to be easy* ... complications introduced to a situation that was supposed to be easy can cause the whole relationship to go sideways ... nobody likes that...

Although the best advice is "Do not give advice." In these circumstances, I give advice. Do not lend money to a relative or a friend ... make it a gift outright and forget about it. If you cannot give it away, do not loan it... If you expect loaning money to a friend or a relative is easy ... you have a good chance to discover it is hard after all, this is disappointing and not worth it ... make it a gift... period. Easy things that become hard are very frustrating. Nobody wants this to compromise a good relationship.

I expect that it is a universal hope and expectation that relationships between Jesus Disciples ancient and modern, should be harmonious. After all, Jesus preached love and peace and reconciliation, *we* preach love and peace and reconciliation. While we are telling other people how to get along, it is a reasonable expectation that we should get along as well. One would think that it is easy for us. Not only that, we are mostly all rather alike. We mostly pretty much agree on important issues. The truth is that small differences can divide.

The fact that differences are small and should be easy to resolve makes them more difficult to tolerate. "Parkinson's law of triviality" is an argument that members of an organization give disproportionate weight to trivial issues. They do so because the smaller matter is expected to be

easily understood, so we gravitate toward it and get stuck. We expect hard problems or large differences to be difficult, so we face them as a challenge, not as a failure.

Today's Gospel lesson reminds us how that which is supposed to be easy, can escalate into something difficult.

*“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

It is quite interesting that Jesus turns from this to -

*Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

The process ends with a decision - bind it or loose it. The decision to bind may be made at the end of the process. The decision to let it go can be made at any time.

It sounds almost like how the complexity or heartache that may arise from a simple circumstance like lending money to a friend or relative can be sealed by hanging on to it, bearing a grudge if payment is not made; or can be resolved by letting it go... declaring the loan a gift. Declaring the loan a gift can be made right at the beginning.

Why am I preaching this today? Is there some conflict in the church that we should ferret out? Is there news of disagreement? No. Trinity gets along remarkably well. This just happens to be the Gospel for today. However, the irritation and complexity of easy problems becoming disproportionately frustrating is not limited to the church. We also live in families, we have brothers and sisters, partners and friends. We are members of Lodges, service clubs, we volunteer in other organizations. We have political opinions. We bump into little problems and differences that promise to be easy and threaten to go sideways all the time.

How often do you hear yourself say, “*This is not supposed to be hard?*” In those moments, you can let it escalate, or you can let it stay small... Will this turn into a Grudge or a Gift? *Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.* “Heaven” implies a long time ... We can take a little problem and let it grow into something we are stuck with for a long time; or we can let it go.

May God cause us to be wise in moments and circumstances that are supposed to be easy and let them remain so.

Amen.

### **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 feast, as we feast, peace becomes the sign;  
in the bread and the wine there's a sense of love divine.

We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed;  
and we feel God's refreshing grace as we meet at table 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.

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

### **Invitation to Offering**

God has provided what we need to enjoy God's creation, and serve God and neighbour in loving kindness. Our offering will spread the gifts God gives to neighbours in need in the name of Christ, our Lord.

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca).

Thank you.

## **Offering Prayer**

Lord God, receive these gifts, offered in a spirit of generosity and humility. Bless and use them for the work that you long to do in the world for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Meditation** "O Saviour, Hear Me" (Gluck)

## **Prayers of the People**

We are filled with gratitude for the blessings of this life.

For making us in your image to love and care for one another,  
we give you thanks.

For the gift of Christ, who redeems and guides us,  
and who gives us a pattern for everyday living,  
we praise you.

Hear us now as we pray for situations where your love and grace  
are sorely needed in the world you love.

We pray for the church in this place and around the world,  
facing new challenges to respond to enduring needs...

We pray for the fragile home we share with all living things...

For those who lead our

Municipality, our Province, our Country and the nations of the  
world,

that all may find the wisdom and courage to do justice...

For those who teach, heal and care

facing new situations this autumn,

and for students who return to school in very different  
circumstances...

For the homeless and hungry,

the unemployed and the anxious,  
all who have become more vulnerable through the pandemic...

For those who mourn and those who are alone or feeling isolated...

For the powerless and oppressed,  
and those caught up in destructive relationships  
or unjust political systems...

And for the concerns we bear on our hearts this day...

We thank you for those who have shown us some measure of your  
eternal love.

Keep us always in communion with you, and with your people from  
every time and place.

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 -

### **We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** 401 "Worship The Lord" (Vss 1, 3 & 5)

***Refrain -***

***Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)  
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,  
raising our hands (raising our hands)  
in devotion to God who is one!***

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,  
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,  
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,  
worship and work must be one!

*Refrain -*

Called to be partners with God in creation,  
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,  
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,  
worship and work must be one!

*Refrain -*

Now in response to the life you are giving,  
help us, Creator, to offer our living,  
seeking a just and a healing society,  
worship and work must be one!

*Refrain -*

**Benediction**

Go to the people who are overwhelmed by despair.

**We will share the hope which has been given to us.**

Go to those who are at odds with neighbors.

**We will offer peace and reconciliation.**

Go to those who are vulnerable in our world.

We will bring healing, grace and the love of God.

**Choral Amen**

**Postlude "Theme from 'Exodus'" (Gold)**