

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2021

From the Pastor

To anyone driving by, the people in the field might have been planting a garden or checking the fence or maybe playing a game. It would have looked for all the world like nothing was going on except a bunch of people standing in a field. No bystander would know that it was a sacred event: a time when family members had gathered to scatter the ashes of their father and grandfather onto the field which was his.

The memorial service held in the church had long ended. Friends and relatives had gone home, leaving only the immediate family members: two daughters and a son together with their spouses and children. Will and I were there as the ministers, although it wasn't our presence that made this gathering sacred—what made it sacred was the love and the memories and the celebration of a life lived faithfully and well.

All of us who gathered there made a wide circle. One of the daughters brought out her father's ashes. They were in a bag, just a simple, sturdy bag. Following no protocol except the desire to scatter his ashes, the sacred event began as each person held the bag and told something memorable or funny or wonderful about this man, who was as unassuming as the bag in which his ashes were contained. There was much laughter, and conversation between those who had gathered there; heads nodding, sometimes tears flowing, everything spoken was a testimony to this humble servant of God. After each person spoke, he or she would reach into the bag and scatter ashes on the ground, then hand it to the next one in the circle. The bag grew lighter as it passed from person to person until the last person emptied out the bag on the ground. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust; "from dust you were created, to dust you shall return, blessed be the name of the Lord." Creation, resurrection, death and life merged into that one sacred moment.

On the road above the field, a car drove by as the circle began to break apart and family members headed in the direction of a garden, to look at the garden which was well loved by the deceased. Some walked by themselves, some in pairs, arms around each other. A daughter was hugged by her mother, a brother kept pace with a brother-in-law. Will and I said our goodbyes and as we got into our car, I could see the rhythm of grief and celebration in their steps. What a privilege to be part of such a sacred event, an intimate expression of thanksgiving for a dear, delightful man whose body returned to the earth he loved even as his spirit rested in peace with the God who welcomed him home.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS AT 2 a.m.
ON SUNDAY MARCH 14**

**Set your clocks forward before you
go to bed on Saturday, March 13!**

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS



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The Trinity Times is published monthly. We welcome news items and other contributions from members and friends of Trinity. Bring your articles to the church or e-mail them to the editor, Judy Schomber (schomberstat@aol.com) by the 20th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Sally Hughes, Pastor

William E. Berger, Minister of Music

Linda Rogers, Office Manager

Jeff Durham, Facilities Manager

SESSION MEMBERS

Sally Hughes, Moderator

Lucas Bates (2022)

Jackie Elbert (2022)

Paul Parker (2021)

George Ward (2022)

Viris Baker (2020)

Vera Billington (20221)

Hank Howerton (2020)

Linda Rutherford (2020)

Aad Zeeuw (2021)

JOIN THE HANDBELL CHOIR!

If you are interested in learning how to play the handbells and being part of a handbell choir, please let Linda Rogers or Will Berger know. The handbell choir might be our next chancel choir, until singing is safe during worship.



MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

- March 7 **Third Sunday in Lent**
Exodus 10:1-17 *and* Psalm 19;
I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
- March 14 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Numbers 21:4-9 *and* Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
1 Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
- March 21 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Jeremiah 31:31-34 *and* Psalm 51:1-12 *or*
Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10;
John 12:20-33
- March 28 **Palm/Passion Sunday**
Palm: Mark 11:1-11 *or* John 12:2-16 *and*
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a *and* Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 4:1—15:47 *or*
Mark 15:1-39 (40-17)

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Trinity will have an Easter sunrise service on April 4 in the amphitheater (weather permitting). We are currently undecided about an in-person Easter worship service at 11 a.m., but we'll keep everyone posted!



IN LIEU OF EASTER FLOWERS – ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING DONATIONS

Through the Presbyterian Church USA's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering, our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. During this time when needs are so great, **in lieu of purchasing commemorative flowers for Easter Sunday, we will make donations to OGHS.** Please make your donation in honor, celebration or memory of someone. Just include that in a note with your check or reply to this e-mail. For example, "from John Doe, in memory of Jane Doe." For Easter Sunday, there will be a listing of those commemorated through donations. You may send a check payable to "Trinity Presbyterian Church" and designate it "OGHS Offering".

JOIN US IN READING/SHARING LENTEN SCRIPTURES

From Sally:

There are still passages to read for the remaining days of Lent. You may video yourself reading one or more of the Lenten scriptures using their phone or iPad/tablet and emailing it to me. Then, on the day of that reading, I will post it on our Facebook page throughout the season of Lent. If you are not sure you can record yourself reading a scripture passage, we'll find a time for you to come to the church and I'll record you (socially distanced and masked, of course!). Or, I'll come to you--socially distanced and masked, of course. I think this is one way we can "see" each other and also "hear" scripture as our Lenten devotional. You may choose one or more scripture passages from the list provided on the link below.

I welcome children reading as well as families! I have simpler versions of scripture that can be used; in fact, I offer the same thing for adults!

Here is the link to the list of scriptures. The second column (Revised Common Lectionary reading) is the one from which we are choosing. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Daily-Readings-for-Lent-2021.pdf>

Daily Readings for Lent 2021 - Presbyterian Mission Agency

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1 Daily Readings for Lent 2021 Two-Year Daily Lectionary (Book of Common Worship) [Year 1] Revised Common Lectionary Daily

www.presbyterianmission.org

Peace and looking Lent-ward!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Paige Stinnett – 3
Kennath Henderson – 9
Bill Dougherty – 16
Matt Rutherford – 18
Benita Sims – 18



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday, March 2 at 11 a.m. on Zoom. We will study Lesson 6, "Lament Over the City" in *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*. We'll provide you with a Zoom link for the study.

TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be offered only by Zoom and will be Wednesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. The book for March is *A Piece of the World* by Christina Kline. If you would like to be on the email list for the book club, please let Carla McDonough (carla_mcdonough@bellsouth.net) or Katy Wilson (katybwilson@gmail.com) know.

MORE LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Someone will be presenting the daily scripture reading on the Trinity Facebook Page every day during Lent. Sally is posting those scriptures every morning and they can be viewed/heard throughout the day (see page 3).

Also on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. during Lent through March 30, Sally is offering a Lenten study via Facebook Live. You can watch it whenever it is convenient for you. The basis for the study is J. Ellsworth Kalas' book, "Easter

from the Back Side" which is available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), if you want your own copy. Please send Sally questions or comments during the broadcast, if you are a Facebook member, or text/email your questions or comments if you are not. Each week in the Friday congregational e-mail, Sally provides the scripture and questions to ponder for the week. If you do not currently receive the weekly e-mail but would like to, please e-mail Linda: office@trinitypresnashville.org.

PRAYER TIME

On Friday mornings, Sally Hughes offers a Facebook Live prayer time beginning at 8:30 AM. This prayer time includes concerns and people for which we pray on Sunday, as well as any provided by members or friends. The prayer time will consist of opening words of scripture, a psalm reading, then prayer, and conclude with the Lord's prayer. If you are a Facebook member, you can submit prayer requests via the comments, and if you are not, you can send them via text to Sally (615-594-5765) or email. These Facebook prayer times will NOT be saved on the Facebook page as our worship services are saved.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS!

*The Lord is my light and my salvation,
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is stronghold of my life, of
whom shall I be afraid?*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your
heart take courage; wait for the
Lord! (from Psalm 27)*

A big thank you to everyone who has been mailing their financial contribution to the church! That is so wonderful! Please continue to remember pledges and contributions to the church via the US Post office, or online if you have the ability to send payments through your bank. As always, we should be careful but not fearful. We should practice compassion as well as cleanliness. Whether sick or well, we are in the hands of a loving God.

LEARN ABOUT THE THREE DAYS OR TRIDUUM



A 14th century painting of the footwashing and Passover meal by Duccio di Buoninsegna

One of the first annual events of the Christian year, after the celebration of the resurrection on every Lord's Day, was a commemoration of Christ's dying and rising at Easter. Over the years, one day was split into three different rituals to remember the Last Supper and New Commandment (Maundy Thursday), the Crucifixion (Good Friday) and the struggle to make meaning of the cross in light of the whole of salvation history (the Great Vigil) — all culminating in Easter at day break.

What was originally one annual service remembering the Lord's death and resurrection became split into separate services in order to pay closer attention to the significant details of Christ's death and resurrection. These were considered to be part of one salvific activity of God and thus celebrated as such without a benediction until the end of the service with the Easter announcement that "Christ is risen!"

The Three Days or Triduum (Maundy Thursday at sundown through sundown of Easter) are the most solemn of the church year. The whole church's participation is encouraged in this time of great significance for all who would be formed in the Christian faith, especially catechumens. The Great Vigil of Easter was the time set aside for the annual baptism of new Christians, coinciding with the eucharistic dawning of God's reign in the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

A continuous dramatic story

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 113)

All of Holy Week points toward the passion — the death and resurrection of Christ. The week's final three days (from sunset Thursday to sunset on Easter) complete the commemoration of Christ's passion. These three days are called the Triduum.

The Triduum engages us from Thursday until Sunday in a unified act. What happens on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil forms a continuous dramatic story. These days are to be seen together rather than separately. The services for the three final days of Holy Week connect with one another and, together, comprise the oneness of the Triduum.

Because of this interrelationship of the three days, each service of the Triduum needs the others to tell the whole story. For example, resurrection is incomprehensible without Christ's self-giving in crucifixion and at the Lord's Supper. Therefore, Easter needs Good Friday and Maundy Thursday to be fully understood. The way to the triumph of Easter is through the Triduum.

All of Holy Week, and particularly its three concluding days (the Triduum), provides an opportunity to undertake a pilgrimage of renewed commitment and joy; to travel Christ's path of servanthood, through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross, as we move toward Easter. Our joy during the great festival of resurrection will be enhanced by faithful participation in worship during the preceding week, especially during the whole of the Triduum.

Source: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/three-days-or-triduum/>

COVID VACCINE FOR THOSE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

Here is the Metro/Davidson County link for scheduling a time to receive the vaccine if you qualify:
<https://redcap.health.nashville.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=DHMKJ7J897>

Metro is now accepting appointments for those 65 and over and for teachers

PREPARING FOR SPRING ISSUE OF NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please e-mail or call the church office and leave a message if you need to update your information or if you were not in the previous directory and would like to be included. Thanks