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**Trinity United Church**

**Sunday February 25, 2018**

**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**FEB.25, 2018**

**\*** indicates to please stand as you are able

**Bold Print**  indicates a group response

**VU =** Voices United Hymnbook (Red cover)

**MV =**  More Voices Hymnbook (Spiral Bound)

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:**  “At the center of the religious life is a peculiar kind of joy, the prospect of a happy ending that blossoms from necessarily painful ordeals, the promise of human difficulties embraced and overcome.” ~ Huston Smith

**PRELUDE:** Shine, Jesus, Shine -G. Kendrick

**WE APPROACH GOD**

**\*♪OPENING HYMN:**  To Abraham and Sarah (VU 634)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

God of the lasting Covenant—by the sign of the rainbow,

**Your promise surrounds this world.**

By your assurance of abundance,

**Your promise reaches through the generations.**

By the trust of the future,

**Your promise abides through time and space.**

By the sacrifice of the Cross,

**Your promise is sealed, and delivered.**

Let’s learn and worship and pray!

**JUNIOR CHOIR INTROIT:** “Learning How to Pray”

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

God of the faithful testament,

Of extravagant promises, of eternal covenant—

Forgive us for the ways in which we draw back from the promise,

The ways we fail to live up to our obligations,

How we flinch and withdraw, how we forget and justify our faithlessness…

*(A moment of Silence for Personal Confession…)*

Remember the signs of covenant: The bow in the sky, the fruitfulness of nations, the broad circle of creation, the cross on a hill. We may not always live up to our promises, but God does. Therefore be assured that you are forgiven, embraced, beloved. May our words, our works, our ways be pleasing to God. Amen.

**\*♪SUNG RESPONSE:** “Meditation” (Arr. Mark Patterson)

May the words of my mouth and the hopes of my heart be pleasing, dear Lord, to You.

May the works of my hands and the ways of my life by pleasing, dear Lord, to You.

Teach me, dear Lord, to trust You each day and help me show others Your love

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S STORY**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

*The Mission Statement of Trinity United Church*

We believe God is calling Trinity United Church to:   
- reach out and serve the wider community and the world;   
- to nurture spirituality in people of all ages; and  
- to be a safe, open, welcoming and inclusive community of faith.

*Members of our community are called on to respond to the covenant with the words*,

**“We do, God being our strength.”**

**\*♪SUNG LORD’S PRAYER** (VU 959)

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Genesis 9: 8-17, Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*♪HYMN:** If You Will Trust in God to Guide You (VU 286)

**MEDITATION:**

**\*♪HYMN: ‘**Tis The Gift to be Simple (VU 353)

**WE GO OUT TO LIVE THE STORY**

**♪ OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** Blessings Story/Sorenson

**\*♪PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING** (VU 506)

Take my life, and let it be

Consecrated all for Thee;

Take my treasure and my days;

Let them flow in ceaseless praise!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**WE CELEBRATE THE STORY**

**\*♫HYMN:** Worship The Lord (VU 401)

**BLESSING**

**\***♪**CHORAL ENDING:**  “We Are One” (VU 402) 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.

**POSTLUDE:** Andante Maesto -Corelli

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**OUR LEADER TODAY IS:**

Diane Cook

**OUR USHERS TODAY ARE:**

Carol & Mike Bugo, Irma Benard, Gladys Banks-Bryer

**OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS TODAY ARE:**

**OUR LIFT OPERATOR TODAY IS:**

John Roberts

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*Trinity United Church gathers on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe peoples of Nipissing First Nations.  We acknowledge with respect their history, their spiritual practices and their stewardship of this land.*

**WELCOME AND GOOD MORNING!**

**EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS AT TRINITY**

* In case of an emergency at Trinity, please know the location of your closest exit door—two at the front, two at the back. We are NOT allowed to use the elevator in the case of an emergency.
* Ushers, Teachers, and Choir members are trained to assist you (and the children) downstairs and outside to our emergency gathering location: The Capitol Centre Parking Lot.

**REMINDER:** The Annual General Meeting is **TODAY** .Plan to stay for lunch followed by a short meeting. Meet your new Board and see where your money is spent.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

* Hearing devices and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
* You can dedicate a bulletin in memoryof a loved one, in celebration of child, grandchild or friend. The cost is $25.00.The proceeds go towards the cost of the bulletin. See Wanda or call the office for more information.
* If you or someone you love would appreciate a visit from a Trinity friend or minister, please let us know via the office (705-474-3310) or a note in the offering plate

**WHAT’S HAPPENING AT OUR CHURCH?**

**AOTS GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER-** The next Gift Card orders are March.4,18 and April 15 . Your continuing support for this AOTS youth program is greatly appreciated. **NOTE:** Rob Brownlee will be accepting orders while Ed is enjoying a winter holiday.

. **MUSIC MINISTRY AT TRINITY**

* **JOYFUL BELLS HANDBELL CHOIR** Tuesdays from 6 - 7:30pm in the Board Room.
* **SENIOR CHOIR** – Every Thursday at 7:15pm.
* **JUNIOR CHOIR** practices every Sunday before church under the leadership of Peggy Millar. Children from JK to Grade 8 are **most** welcome.

**TRINITY GAMES!** Trinity Games nights happens on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 6:30pm. Enter through the McIntyre Street entrance. All are welcome.

(Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult)

**TRINITY’S INFANT FOOD SHELF** has blankets all cut and ready for you sewers. The material will be on the stage after church. Please help us keep our babies warm.

**FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY** \***DID YOU KNOW** you can borrow books from our library. See Sharen Liddell before the service in the Fireside Room most Sundays.

**DATES-AT-A-GLANCE**

**“Camp Caritou” Pasta Supper** at Trinity, Saturday March 3rd

**Red Hot Friday Chili Cook-off** **and Live musical entertainment –** Friday March 23rd

**Palm Sunday Worship** – Sunday March 25th -10:30am

**Youth Overnight Prayer Vigil**- Thursday March 29th to Friday March 30th at 9am.

**Good Friday – AOTS hosted breakfast** – Friday March 30th 8am All welcome!

**Good Friday United Church Community Service** at Emmanuel United Church – Friday March 30th -10:30am

**Easter Sunrise Service** - Sunday April 1st- 7:30am

**Easter Communion Service** – Sunday April 1st-10:30am

**Rapport Concert**- Sunday April 22nd-1:30pm

**“Nunsense”-** Trinity welcomes the Dressing Room Production May 9-13

**Mother’s Day** Baptism followed by Birch’s Waffle Lunch and “Nunsense”

**“PRAYERscapes”: Loving Kindness Practices**

Growing up in the Protestant Christian tradition, there was really only one way to pray—and that was to approach God with a “grocery list” of requests. And often we “outsourced” our list to the Minister, which left our spiritual lives dry and impoverished.

One goal of prayer is to expand our capacity for compassion. Consider Loving Kindness Meditation. It works this way:

Sit comfortably and undistracted, breathing with long and deep exhalations. Sitting quietly, mentally rehearse good wishes for yourself: for instance, praying with feeling for your own wellness, contentment, safety and peace. Love is first practiced toward oneself, since we often have difficulty loving others without first loving ourselves.

After a period of directing loving-kindness toward yourself, bring to mind someone in your life who cares for you. Then slowly repeat the same phrases of loving-kindness toward them. As you continue the meditation, you can bring to mind other friends, or even strangers or animals, and finally people with whom you have difficulty. One at a time, you can use the same well-wishing phrases that you used for yourself.

A similar kind of prayer can be done more spontaneously over your day. When you see a man, say a word in your head-- something like, “brother” or “father.” When you see a woman, perhaps think, “Sister,” “Aunt,” “daughter” or “mother.” This “family” kindness practice can soften how you see or judge others.

If and when feelings of anger or sadness arise, take these as signs that your heart is softening, revealing itself. These are opportunities to exercise acceptance and forgiveness with yourself. Regular kindness practices keep the heart open and available to God.