



On 28th Avenue between Lake and 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am • CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am • Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

WILL YOU KEEP US IN SUSPENSE?

Sermon Excerpt from April 17, 2016

Jesus was a storyteller. In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, he tells rich parables that are filled with meaning and can often lead us to ask new questions. In John, he uses “figures of speech,” or metaphors: I am bread, I am light, I am the gate, I am the Good Shepherd. All of these sayings are left open for interpretation; they’re definitely not plain speech. That led some people to approach Jesus as he was walking through the Temple and to ask him what I believe is a fair question. “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

None of us likes to be kept in suspense. In today’s technology-based society, we’re probably even less comfortable with it than ever. We want the whole story as quickly as we can get it, which is why TV directors love to end their seasons with plot cliffhangers and why telling someone you spent a weekend binge-watching a show on Netflix is likely to be met with nods of understanding. It’s in our nature to want to know what happens next.

“How long, Jesus, will you keep us in suspense?” It’s an honest question that arises out of sincere longing, not one meant to trap or accuse. In fact, we could even think of it as a prayer, a petition on the hearts of the first followers of Jesus and on ours, too. And I don’t think it’s wrong that we want an answer now. For them the question was *Is Jesus someone they could look to when empires threatened to overpower them and destroy their very way of life?* For us, it may be *Is Jesus someone we can trust in when wars persist and so many throughout the world hunger and thirst for peace and for justice?* Or on a more personal level, does Jesus have anything to say to us in our own individual life struggles? Will Jesus be your Messiah as you, for example, come to grips with a serious diagnosis, or when you suddenly become unemployed, or when the daily stresses of life are becoming just too much, or when a family member suffers abuse, or when a relationship ends?

“Tell us plainly, Jesus. Don’t keep us in suspense.” It’s an honest prayer.

When Jesus was walking through the temple, in the portico of Solomon, it was the perfect opportunity for those curious religious observers to interview him about his identity and future plans, to get the full story. Still, Jesus did not give them the plain answer they were hoping for. Jesus clearly was not interested in titles or theological formulas or even drawing attention to himself. He was passionate about inviting people into relationship with God and into joining God’s work in the world. Calling Jesus the Messiah is good and right, but you can’t really understand what that means until *after* you have joined in and opened yourself to the new thing that God is doing. Belief, he says, follows belonging.

So I guess it would make sense that the answer Jesus gives to our questions for him is still likely to be a story. It’s the story of our own lives. Keep watch today and tomorrow and see how the risen Jesus will accompany you and lead you beyond your wants and fears. Open yourself to trusting that you are not alone and that you and this world are still so deeply loved. Maintain a sense of anticipation for how God will be present for you. Faith isn’t about getting the right answer; it’s about being part of God’s unfolding, amazing story. We belong to God, and God will never let us go.

—Jay Carlson, Pastor

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Lord is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today the Lord Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.



READINGS

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am—in the Library

APRIL 24 “What’s Next for MN on Climate Action after the Paris Agreement?”

Melissa Hortman, J.D., Deputy Minority Leader

Ms. Hortman is a sixth-term legislator in the Minnesota House of Representatives from the northwest suburbs of Minneapolis. As a legislator, she has focused on energy, transportation, the environment, and civil law.

MAY 1 “Small Steps, Big changes”

Gwen Jackson, Director of HR and Operations for Edina Public Schools

Join Gwen Jackson who will use an [Unpacking the Knapsack](#) activity to encourage questions and open discussion about race and privilege.

HAPPY EARTH DAY

As we observe Earth Day this week, here are a few simple actions each one of us can take to help protect our watersheds and waterways and care for God’s creation (from the Mpls. Area Synod EcoFaith Network).

- *Don’t clutter the gutter.* Our storm drains discharge directly into the closest waterway. Don’t dump paint, motor oil, pesticides, cleaning products, or other hazardous household materials into storm drains. Likewise, don’t sweep your lawn clippings or leaves into storm drains.
- *Read labels.* Runoff containing too much phosphate (“P”) helps feed algae blooms and weed growth in area waterways. Use only phosphate-free automatic dishwasher detergents, deck cleaners and lawn fertilizers. Triclosan, an ingredient found in toothpaste, deodorant and many antibiotic hand cleaners has been found to alter hormone regulation in fish. Micro beads, found in many skin care products, are also harmful for aquatic life.
- *Let it grow.* Don’t mow your lawn shorter than 3 inches. Longer grass allows for conserving water in the soil, developing healthier roots and shading weed seedlings so they don’t grow. Leave your grass and leaf clippings on the lawn as natural fertilizer.
- *Use native plants in your landscape.* They require less water and fertilizer and are more resistant to pests and disease since they are already adapted to local conditions.
- *Hold back the flood.* Impervious surfaces such as pavements cause rain to run off rapidly, which can cause flooding and stream bank erosion during rainstorms. Minimize runoff by redirecting downspouts into vegetated areas, installing rain barrels or planting a rain garden.

PARISH INFORMATION

PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 15

We will gather for festival worship services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. All Holy Trinity members are also encouraged to attend a joint service with the **Minnesota Swahili Christian Congregation** at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be present with us and will give the sermon. The Swahili Congregation will host a meal following the worship service. Sign up in the Community Room.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT FRIDAY, MAY 6, 6:00-9:00 P.M.

Adults and youth work together caring for HTLC children while their parents go "out" from 6-9 p.m. Sign up to help with childcare or to save a spot for your kids in the nursery.

BIKING WITH FRIENDS FRIDAY, MAY 6, 6:15 P.M.

The 20s, 30s, 40s group invites adults of all ages to join a casual bike tour through Minneapolis on Friday, May 6. We will meet at Bruce/Lisa Martens' home at 6:15 p.m. and explore the great web of bike trails our city has to offer! We will make our way to Sea Salt Eatery at Minnehaha Falls for refreshments towards the end of the ride. If you are in need of a bike to ride for the evening, please contact Lisa at lisajmartens@gmail.com. Sign up in the Community Room by May 1.

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE TRIP

The annual trip to the BWCA is scheduled for August 12-15; we plan to leave the evening of August 11. The cost is \$150 with a \$75 deposit due by May 23. Travelers will meet a few weeks before the trip for information and planning. Sign up in the Community Room. Any questions please call John Sulzbach, Tom Cahoy, or Julie Cahoy.

IALOGUE LUNCH THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 12:00 P.M.

Our guest, Francisco Muñoz, will address how climate change is affecting both farming in the Miraflor and his bird diversity studies throughout Northern Nicaragua. He will comment on our shared responsibility for the well-being of migratory species and offer insights into the challenges of sustainable development and ecotourism. Lunch will be provided with a suggested donation of \$5. Sign up in the Community Room or online at htlcmpls.org/dialogueevents.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Following the abatement of asbestos and other hazardous materials, construction crews have now begun demolition work inside the new office space near the east entrance. The church door will remain accessible while the interior work is being done. Exterior work is expected to begin in early June.

Office phone: 612-729-8358
Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

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PARISH EVENTS April 24-30, 2016

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
Tuesday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	10:00 am	Mosaic Workshop on 4th floor
Wednesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
	5:30 pm	Choir Families Supper
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs
	6:30 pm	Trinity Singers
Thursday	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
	12:00 pm	Dialogue Lunch

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS APRIL 24, 2016

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Jade Masiee, Tevy Nou	Acolytes	Linden Kung, Soren Kung	
Josh Becker	Crucifer	Anna Brelje	
Andrea Hansen	Assisting Minister	Libby Olstad	
Pam Blomgren, Jeff Weiss	Communion	Sean Gosiewski, Kathy Hollander	
Linda/Gerry Berglin	Altar Guild	Stella Townsend, Linda Woytasek	
Bob Peschiutta, Sally/David Kohlstedt	Ushers	DeWayne Townsend, Ethan Townsend, Helen/Bob Norheim	
Kristin Karsko family	Coffee Servers	Carol/John Kelly	
Donna Heyer, Bob Peschiutta	Counters	Deb Helmel, Gary Johnson	
	Closer	Rod Johnson	

Financial Report	April 17	Year to date
Budget requirements	14,432.69	230,923.08
Budget receipts	13,831.78	249,525.04
Opening Doors	47,763.37	169,040.00
African Pastors' Endowment	50.00	165.00

Special gift to **Opening Doors** in memory of **Adoria Brose** by Bob Brose
Special gift to **HT Theatre Circle** in memory of **Tony Tucker** by Sharon/Rob Englund
African Pastors' Endowment Fund by Bud Dixen