



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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WORSHIPING DURING COVID

“How does it sound if you sing it by yourself?” This is a new question I have to ask when we pick hymns for worship. Even before COVID, finding a balance of hymns for each Sunday is always a creative task with lots of considerations. Does it fit with the lectionary readings, the sermon, the church season? Do we have something in every service that we know, or something repeated we are getting to know? Is there something you could sing if you can’t read words or read music? Is there language that is deep and worth pondering all week? Is the language for God and God’s people expansive and inclusive? And so on. But now, we have to ask, “Is it successful if you just hear a single person singing it?”

“How does it sound if everyone is singing?” This is a new question I have to ask when I record hymns for worship, which is just me singing a solo at my piano at home. When you’re singing by yourself it’s easy to be extra expressive by bending the speed of the music here and there, even if it’s a hymn. But in order to allow people to sing along, I have to imagine playing for a Holy Trinity that’s bursting with people, singing full and strong.

We ask ourselves these complimentary questions all the time. Part of growing up is learning that other people have needs and preferences, too, and part of being a family or a church or a city or a country is negotiating how a decision impacts an individual as well as the whole body. Healthy relationships mean constantly being honest about your own voice and listening to those around you.

And that’s what makes for great hymn singing, too. Collecting individual voices into one larger congregation is thrilling. The warmth, energy, joy, and vulnerability of a congregation singing together is one of my favorite things in the whole world. It’s a model of being in community: many voices, with their individual idiosyncratic sounds, listening to one another and agreeing to say the same words and sing the same pitches at the same time. It’s a work of art that lasts for 2 minutes and is gone, and even if we were to sing the same hymn again 5 minutes later, it would be a little different the next time.

Right now we can’t sing together as musicians, but I’m glad we can still sing together as neighbors, aware of how a single life will be affected, as well as a whole community. We can choose not to live like soloists, but to live together as a choir.

—David Sims, Cantor



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8;
Philippians 1:21-30; Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)

Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

SEPTEMBER 20

“Faith-Rooted Activism and Spiritual Healing Through the Arts”
Joe Davis, Artist, Educator, and Speaker

Joe will invite participants to actively engage in the work of healing and transformation through interweaving dynamic poetry, storytelling, and research-based intercultural practices.

SEPTEMBER 27

Information will be available next week.

WHO IS YOUR EVERYONE?

Is it only citizens in the country you were born in?
Or migrant workers whose customs and culture may seem foreign?

Is it only those in your church Sunday morning?
Or the nonreligious or Jews or Muslims or Mormons?
With whom does your “everyone” begin or in?

Is it only those with your zip code, your language, your skin?
Can your vision extend beyond us versus them
towards a bridge of love where true justice bends?

Where all our walls crumble and fall
between “those people” who make us feel so uncomfortable,
different and distant, they seem so unlovable?
But come closer and discover God loves them too,
no more or no less, but just as much as you.

This is the truth we often may forget:
there is a table that offers all a place to sit,
that of a transformational relationship,
when we celebrate everyone’s human sacredness.
For we are them and they are us,
all created in God’s image.

Who is your everyone?

—Joe Davis, poet and storyteller
Leader of adult forum Sunday, September 20

PARISH INFORMATION

DIALOGUES ON RACE DISCUSSION SERIES—CHAPTER 7

Please join members from the Racial Justice Committee and Doctrine of Discovery Task Force for the continuation of the bi-weekly discussion series based on the short book, *Dialogues on Race*. The final chapter (*A New Heaven and A New Earth*), led by Mike Miller and Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, will be discussed September 23 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you would like a copy of the book (no charge), email Randy Nelson (rnelson1941@yahoo.com). Discussion questions are emailed to previous attendees.

To join this session, click [here](#) or login to Zoom, (or dial 312-626-6799 from your phone) and enter the meeting ID 987 6541 0718 and passcode 893110. All Holy Trinity members and friends are welcome to participate. If you have not previously participated, you are welcome to join the session (each chapter pertains to a different topic).

COMMUNITIES OF CALLING *NEW* SMALL GROUP SIGNUP

There are 13 new small group options ready for you to view and consider joining this fall! They include book groups, outdoor adventures, spiritual practices, and support gatherings. Most will take place on Zoom, and the outdoor experiences will take place at safe physical distance in the fresh air of our beautiful Minnesota fall weather. **Please sign up for just one group**—the one that appeals to you the most—to allow as many folks to participate in these small group experiences as possible. Groups are intentionally kept small (no more than 5) for ease of scheduling and to foster deep conversation. All experiences are offered at no cost. Please include contact information in the COMMENTS section of the option you select.

Click [here](#) to review the list of options and to sign up for the one you prefer. Contact Ann Schrooten if you don't have access to the on-line sign-up page.

GRATITUDE MINISTRY: A LABOR OF LOVE

Thirty dedicated volunteers have handwritten and mailed over 3,000 thank you notes to generous people from all over the world who contributed to the Justice Fund at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church following the murder of George Floyd. This loving support enables us to serve our community and to be generous with our neighbors as we work toward a more equitable tomorrow.

BECOME A MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY

Knowing that worship will remain online until at least January 2021, we want to give everyone the opportunity to join as new members on Sunday, October 4. We at Holy Trinity believe that community is integral to faith, which is why we invite interested persons to consider membership in this congregation. We trust the Spirit guides this process, leading us to one another and guiding our discernment!

If you'd like to become a member, send an email to htoffice@htlcmpls.org.



WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The worship service for September 13 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/457262732>. We invite you to find bread or crackers, wine or grape juice (or any morsel of food and sip of liquid) in your house and celebrate Holy Communion with us.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN TO VOTE?

The Public Voice and Organizing Committee reminds you that you have several options for voting in the election on November 3. Choose one now and make a plan to ensure your vote counts! You can register online (deadline October 13) to vote at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>. This link also has information on how to register at the polls on Election Day. If you aren't sure whether you are registered at your current address, check your status at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>.

Don't want to go to the polls in person? It's easy to vote early by mail. You don't need to give an "excuse" to do this in Minnesota. Request your ballot at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>. It's best to do this now so that the elections office has plenty of time to send your ballot and you have plenty of time to return it. For your ballot to count, remember this important information: 1) carefully follow the instructions that come with your ballot. One of the most common reasons that mail-in ballots are disqualified is because the voter forgot to sign the form; 2) due to COVID19, registered voters do not need to have a witness sign their form this year; and 3) mail the ballot and forms back right away after you finish. Your returned ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day (November 3) and received by the elections office by November 10. You may also drop off your ballot envelope in person at your local elections office.

Educate yourself before you vote: to see what will be on your ballot, go to <https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/>

After you've mailed your ballot, put your mind at ease about whether it was received by going to <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx> to confirm that it was received and counted.

If you prefer to vote in person, find your polling place at <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

God promises to come to us in our **sorrow and grief**. We pray for the family and friends of **Donna Carlson**, who died on August 29. Services have already been held. View her obituary [here](#).

Please don't hesitate to **contact us** with pastoral care emergencies (Church Office: 612.729.8358; Pastor Ingrid: 612.875.6679; Pastor Doug: 612.310.5752). We will do our best to care for you from a distance.