



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On 31st Street between Minnehaha and 28th Avenues Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabebe, and Doug Mork, Pastors

NATURE MEDITATIONS

Communities of Calling Small Group Reflection

I envisioned our time together this fall walking silently through prairie grasses and tall oaks and maples ablaze with color, watching and listening for what our Mother Earth and the Holy Spirit might want us to see and hear. Little did I know just how much I would also learn from each of the women I took these steps with. We had such beautiful gifts of friendship, consolation, wisdom, and laughter to offer one another, at least in part, because of how we were being gently pried open by soft breezes, the gurgling of brooks in our ears, the fall colors so intense that I sometimes had to look away, and on one occasion, the first snow of the season!

From our very first outing to Tamarack Nature Center in White Bear Lake on September 25, we were welcomed into these natural spaces as if our ancestors themselves were beckoning us. Perhaps the most startling realization for me was entering a grove of trees and feeling as if my grandmother, all our grandmothers, were calling to us to “come inside, and let us hold you all for a while.” Even now, more than two months afterward, I feel a catch in my throat when I remember how very real that invitation was. What nurtured us just as deeply as our meandering through the prairies and forests, were the lunches and conversations that we had afterward. After many months of lunching at home on our own, it was refreshing to hear different perspectives, new stories, and to be soaking in the pleasure of the faces we have so missed seeing in person.

One Friday, in a moment of reflection among the trees, and with my companions similarly engaged, I received these words of assurance in response to a deep restlessness I was feeling that day:

*It's okay to plant yourself.
Your roots can grow deeper in search of nourishment nearby.
Your branches can still reach toward the light and intermingle
with the branches of your sisters and brothers.
You can cradle the creatures who need you for shelter or safety.
You can dance to the pulse of the elements of wind and rain,
glorifying God for helping you accept what comes.
It's okay to be planted. The journey is within.*

I believe this was a gift from the trees. I'd like to think that had I been there that day by myself, I would have received the same gift, but in truth, I think it came as a result of being in the company of these sisters in faith, who helped this particular gift of grace appear; like midwives helping a resistant newborn move toward the light of day. I think there are a lot of things I would have missed seeing this fall without my companions. They've made a pretty good case for reaching out to one another, like roots of trees intermingling for sustenance, and branches extending themselves to the rest of the canopy for support. I thank God for Lois, Lynda, Arlene, Connie, and Jane; my new-found “Sisterwood.”

—Ann Schrooten

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

ADULT FORUM

NEW TIME DURING ADVENT: WEDNESDAY, 7:30 PM

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)
Meeting ID: 863 5329 7771 / Password: 693691

DECEMBER 9 Adult Forum with Matt Skinner, Part 1

Join Luther Seminary's Matt Skinner for tonight's adult forum—the first in a two-part series. Professor Skinner will be looking at our Advent theme of “Belonging” through the lens of Acts 10:1-11:18. This session will focus on the Acts story and about what it means that “God shows no partiality.”

DECEMBER 16 Adult Forum with Matt Skinner, Part 2

Join Luther Seminary's Matt Skinner for this adult forum—the second in a two-part series. Professor Skinner will be looking at our Advent theme of “Belonging” through the lens of Acts 10:1-11:18. The first session focused on the Acts story and about what it means that “God shows no partiality.” This session will be discussion-based, exploring implications for our understanding of belonging today.

**The sessions will be recorded and available the following day.

SUNDAY ADULT FORUMS RESUME ON DECEMBER 20

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)
Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

DECEMBER 20 “Advent Hymn Sing” David Sims, Cantor

So many hymns, so little time! We'll use the forum hour to get a few more Advent hymns in before the season is over. David will collect hymns for Advent around a particular theme for us to sing and think about together—some familiar, some obscure, some brand new.



PARISH INFORMATION

PIÑATAS WITH DEACON DAVID CONTINUES

We will craft piñatas together on Tuesdays, December 8 and 15, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Zoom sessions will be live for those who can make it and recorded for those who cannot.

If you missed the first session from last week, (or if you want to see it again), click [here](#).

To join the Tuesday session, click [here](#), login to Zoom.us, or dial 312-626-6799, and enter Meeting ID: 819 9097 3231/ Passcode: 253344.

ADVENT (EVENING) PRAYER SERVICES CONTINUE

Each Wednesday during Advent (December 2, 9, 16), you'll receive a link via email for a recorded worship service of Holden Evening Prayer. This year, Holden will be accompanied by slides of astronomical images—magnificent and colorful photographs of planets, moons, star clusters, nebulae, comets, and galaxies. The stunning universe to which we belong is ever-changing, with light and darkness interspersed, and with clouds of gas and dust glowing in, and sometimes obscuring parts of, the night sky. We'll see panoramic views caught by the Hubble telescope of hundreds of thousands of stars in colorful clusters, vistas of planets, sights of the Milky Way streaming above the forest, and a full moon rising in the desert.

In the Holden Evening Hymn we sing, "You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light." We're invited to watch and wait, sing, pray, breathe, and reflect the light of the One who has been there from the beginning.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED TO LONGFELLOW

Thank you to all who helped with the holiday gift bags for Longfellow High School students. We have brightened the holidays for 60 moms and their children. Longfellow staff will deliver the gift bags to the students next week. Each student receives a \$15 gift card to Target, wool socks, snacks, a pouch of 5 children's masks, school supplies, a hand-knitted hat, and a holiday card.

Also, thanks to all who donated outerwear for Longfellow students and their children. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

LET YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE LIGHT SHINE!

We would like to include photos of you or you and your family holding lighted candles for the Christmas Eve worship video. Use the Christmas Eve candles you received in the Advent box last month. Ask a friend or neighbor to take a photo of you on your porch or front stairs around twilight (4:30-5:00 p.m. in Minneapolis) so that the setting sun can still provide some ambient light but the glow from the candles will light up your faces! Be sure to take the photo in landscape format (hold camera sideways). If you live near other Holy Trinity members, please offer to take their photo for them. If you'd like someone to come and take your photo, contact Ann Schrooten (aschrooten@htlcmpls.org). Photos need to be emailed to Anna Kleven (akleven@htlcmpls.org) by December 18.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

The worship video for Sunday, December 6, can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/487604835>. 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.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH TO PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Stepping Out in Faith Task Force will host a congregational Zoom town hall meeting on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. **You are strongly encouraged to attend and learn more about the proposed allocations, hear the thinking behind the funding categories, and ask questions of the task force.** From there, a revised plan will be presented to the Church Council for its approval, and finally, the congregation will be asked for final approval at the annual meeting on January 31, 2021. In the meantime, if you have specific feedback or questions for the task force, please send them by email to steppingout@htlcmpls.org. [Click here or use the following information to join the meeting.](#) (On your computer: [zoom.us](#): Meeting ID: 910 3730 3376 AND Passcode: 036779 // Or on your phone: (312)626-6799).

2020 THRIVENT CHOICE® DOLLARS EXPIRE MARCH 31, 2021

Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year. Please consider recommending Holy Trinity for your Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you need help with Thrivent's website, click [here](#) for a step-by-step tutorial that Pam Blomgren has put together.

FARE FOR ALL CANCELED AT HOLY TRINITY THIS WEEK

Fare For All will **not** be at Holy Trinity this week. To see Fare For All's December schedule, click [here](#).

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Carolyn Schurr and June Prange's joint memorial service will be held (via Zoom) on Saturday, December 12, at 2:00 p.m. Zoom information and a funeral bulletin will be emailed to all members later this week.

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; or Pastor Angela: 612.248.9121). We will do our best to care for you from a distance.