

LITTLE TRINITY

SINCE 1842



Wednesday, Dec 18, 2024

Blue Christmas Service
7:30pm

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK ALONE

This evening's service may bring to the surface in you a depth or intensity of feeling you hadn't anticipated or for which you feel ill-equipped to manage. You may feel you are bearing a burden of loss alone, the intensity of your pain may frighten you, or you may feel stuck in an echo chamber of loss with no exit. You could use some help but where can you turn?

Little Trinity has a robust pastoral care ministry - there is indeed somewhere to turn. We are here to walk with you in the difficult portions of life's journey. So if you or someone you know is struggling and are on a dark and difficult portion of the journey and you need support, *please* reach out. Do not try to do alone what God never intended you to do alone.

There are a number of ways to get in touch. The easiest way would be to email James Beck at pastoralcare@littletrinity.org or call 416-367-0272, ext 225 and leave a message. We are here to be with you.

May the God of all comfort be present in your life now and always.



PRELUDE

VIDEO - *Loss in the Mirror*

(Poem by L. Haughton; Music "Man of Sorrows" by M. Janzen)

They say there are stages to grief,
A despair that can't be quantified by any one person
Because every single person experiences
That pain in a unique way.
The gasp of shock,
The horror of your new reality,
The anger, fear, the gut-wrenching stab in the gut
That only sleep can relieve.
Yet the sleep often comes with dreams,
Some good, with fond memories, a face, a touch,
And then that one brief moment when you wake
And you forget for a second that your whole world hasn't ended.
You long to go back to that dream state, where you haven't lost them
Where they are still there, holding you, talking, laughing,
Even the arguing seems less painful now,

That's what they say,
That's what you hear
That is what you feel
That is your truth

He says, I am not uncomfortable with your pain
I can handle your emotions
I can take your anger and your fears
I am the author of your hope, the beginning of your peace, the father of
your joy and I love you with a love that holds no room for doubt.
I am with you in the morning hours
When the remembering happens,
When the reality hits you all over again,
I am with you when your tears fall,
I collect them, I count them
And I long to wipe them from your cheeks
And hold you until you can't cry any more,

They say it's time to move on,
As if the loss won't be forever felt
As if time has the ability to bring them back
To put your life back together again.

He says to face your grief,
To stare into the mirror of your pain
To see that loss, to hold space for the gaps left behind,
He says, "I've got you" You are not alone,
I will stand beside you while you stare in the abyss
Into the mirror of your own suffering and I will not leave you.
I am not uncomfortable with your pain
I can handle every emotion you hold in the deepest parts of your heart
And I am here,
I am the author of your hope, the beginning of your peace, the father of
your joy and I love you with a love that holds no room for doubt that when
the sun sets for the last time
I will still be with you. You are not alone.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME

James Beck, Lay Pastoral Associate

HYMN

MOURNING

Psalms 31: 9-12

Reader: Sonya Lawley

⁹ Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief;
my soul and my body also.

¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my iniquity,
and my bones waste away.

¹¹ Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,
especially to my neighbours,

and an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.
¹² I have been forgotten like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.

HYMN

SURRENDER

1 Peter 5:6-7

Reader: John Dirks

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

HYMN

PRAISE

Psalm 31: 14-15; 19, 21-24

Reader: Sonya Lawley

¹⁴ But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my God."
¹⁵ My times are in your hand [...]

¹⁹ Oh, how abundant is your goodness,
which you have stored up for those who fear you
and worked for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of the children of humankind![...]

²¹ Blessed be the Lord,
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
when I was in a besieged city.

²² I had said in my alarm,
"I am cut off from your sight."
But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy
when I cried to you for help.

- ²³ Love the Lord, all you his saints!
The Lord preserves the faithful
but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.
- ²⁴ Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord!

HYMN

HOPE

Revelation 21:1-5a

Reader: John Dirks

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with humans. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

HYMN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SIT/KNEEL

During this time of silent prayer you are welcome to come forward, when and as you wish, to light a candle and to pray, especially for any situation of loss or grief. If you've brought a photograph with you, you're invited to place it on one of the stands around the table and leave it there for the duration of the worship service.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God
**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HYMN

STAND

COMMUNION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

SIT/KNEEL

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to thank you and praise you,
holy and gracious God,
creator of all things,
ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life,
for you are the source of all goodness,
rich in mercy and abounding in love;
you are faithful to your people in every generation,
and your word endures for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
with the fellowship of saints
and the company of heaven,
we glorify your holy name,
evermore praising you and singing,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna hosanna hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. (repeat)**

We praise you, merciful Father,
not as we ought, but as we are able,
because in your tender love
you gave the world your only Son,
in order that the world might be saved through him.
He made you known by taking the form of a servant,
healing the sick, liberating the oppressed,
reaching out to the lost.
Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross,
he confronted the power of sin
and disarmed it for ever.
In his offering of himself,
he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.
Redeemed by Christ,
we have been adopted as your children;
by your pardon
you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts
we approach your holy table,
remembering our Saviour's sacrifice,
and rejoicing in his victory.
Confident in his sovereign purpose,
we declare our faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us
that as we receive this bread and this cup
we may partake of the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and feed on him in our hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love,
and strengthened in our will to serve others;
and make of our lives, we pray,
a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you,
knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

All those who have placed their trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, are welcome to the Lord's table. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request from the communion ministrant.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

SIT/KNEEL

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

STAND

All your works praise you, O Lord.

And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God

we thank you for feeding us

with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

May we, who share his body, live his risen life;

we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;

we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you, and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and evermore.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

STAND

THE DISMISSAL

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;

Blessed be the name of the LORD. (*Job 1:20-21*)



COMING UP

Sun, Dec 22 - Advent 4 - Lessons & Carols Services

Reading: Revelation 7

4:30pm - Christmas Eve All Ages Service (with Pageant)

8:30pm - Christmas Eve Traditional Communion Service

10:45am - Christmas Day Traditional Communion Service

*The Advent / Christmas floral arrangements
are given to the glory of God by
Elfrieda, Vern and Anne Marie Heinrichs,
in loving memory of Ceci Heinrichs.
(Dec. 14, 1965 - May 15, 1975)*

GET IN TOUCH

LITTLE TRINITY

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