

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18, 2026 ▪ 10:00 am



Zion United Church ▪ St. George's Anglican Church
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Presiding Ministers: Rev. Dr. Lorne Mitchell
Rev. Tanya Varner

Preacher: Pastor Rebecca Whiting

Readers: Rev. Dr. Lorne Mitchell

Paul Ditner

Kathryn Murrell

Fran Taylor

Don Worthington

Lily Courtney

Randy Thomson

Greeters: Jim Arbuckle & Diane Goring
Usher: Ross Eichler & Dave Mello

Altar: Diane Godfrey

Musicians: Trinity, Zion, and St. George's
Choristers

Jamie Courtney

Krista Straus

Judy Hahn-Yutzi & friends

Technology:

Fellowship:

Gathering

Prelude *Liturgical Suite* – Gordon Young

- I. Praeludium
- II. Aria
- III. Carillon Toccata

Greeting The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Announcements

Invocation *The assembly stands*

May the name of the Lord be blessed forever, for his name is before the sun. All the nations of the earth will be blessed through him, and all generations will extol him.

Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, the only worker of wondrous deeds, the holy name of his glory is forever blessed. The whole world will be filled with his glory.
Amen.

In peace let us beseech the Lord. Heed our prayers, raise us to life and have mercy on us. Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and always and unto the ages of ages.
Amen.

Gathering Song Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow-ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Litany

From sunrise in the east to sunset in the west, and throughout the entire Christian world, wherever people call on the name of the Lord in holiness – by their prayers and intercession may the Lord have mercy on us. Let us beseech God to deliver us from sin and from the temptations of the world. May the Lord accept the vows and supplications of our hearts and count us worthy of his faith and his commandments together with all of his saints. Almighty Lord our God, raise us to life and have mercy on us.

Raise us to life, O Lord.

That the Lord may usher forth this sunlit morning and guide the day ahead in peace; with faith, let us beseech the Lord.

Grant it, O Lord.

For an angel of peace to be our guardian, let us ask the Lord.

Grant it, O Lord.

For the pardon and forgiveness of our transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

Grant it, O Lord.

For the great and mighty power of the holy Cross to help us, let us ask the Lord.

Grant it, O Lord.

For our true and holy faith, all together, let us beseech the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us commit ourselves and one another to the almighty Lord our God.

We commit ourselves to you, O Lord.

Have mercy on us, Lord our God.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

**Prayer of
the Day**

The assembly is seated after the prayer

Word

**First
Reading**

Isaiah 58:6-11

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 98

The choir sings the verses, and the assembly joins on the refrain.



All the ends of the earth have seen the sal - va - tion of our God.

Second Reading

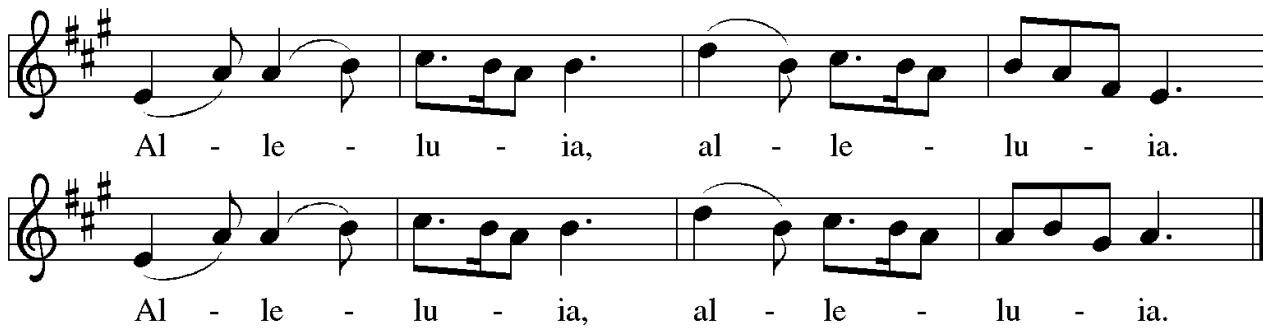
Ephesians 4:1-13

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel
Acclamation** *The assembly stands*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel *John 12:31-36*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

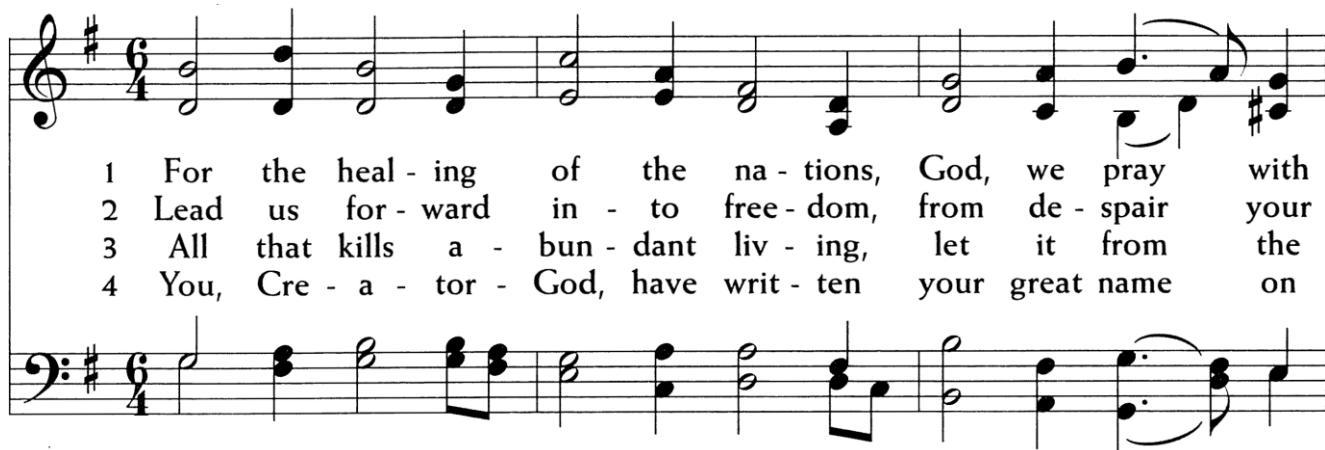
Jesus said to the crowd: ‘Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, ‘We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?’ Jesus said to them, ‘The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.’

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

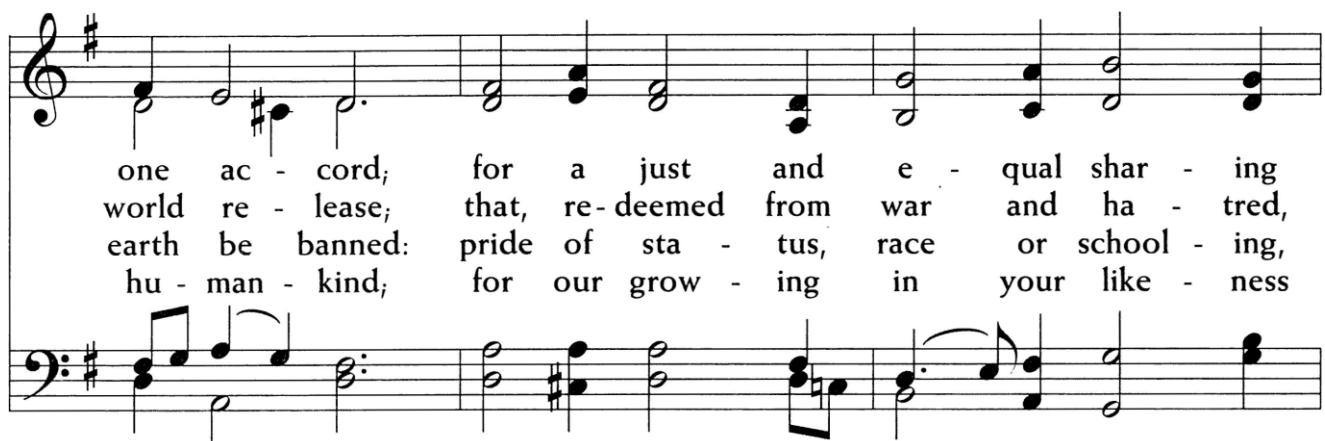
The assembly is seated

Sermon

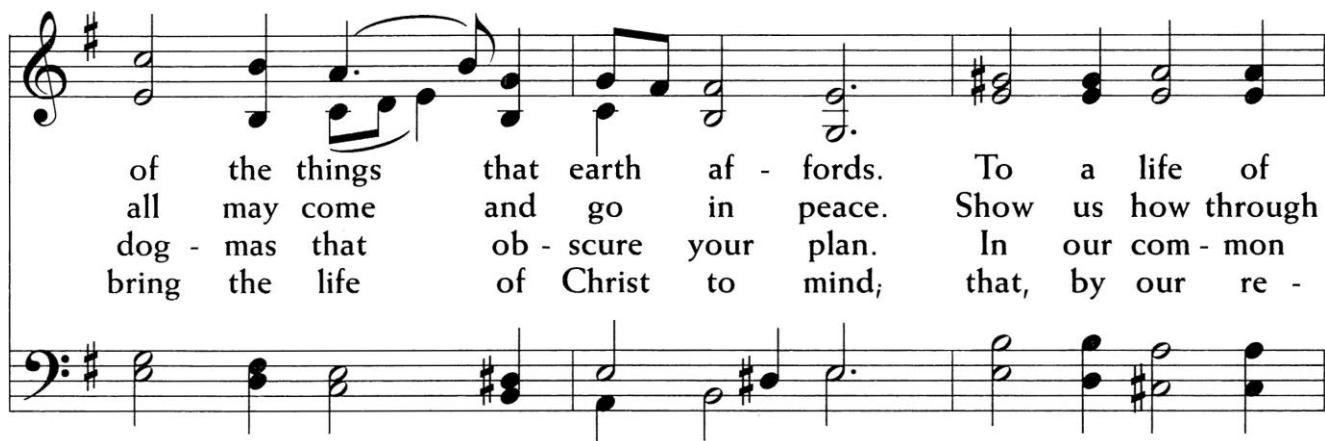
Hymn of the Day *For the Healing of the Nations*



1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom, from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor - God, have writ - ten your great name on



one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease; that, re-deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness



of the things that earth af - fords. To a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind; that, by our re -

Nicene Creed

Bathed in the light of the Wisdom of Christ, together, let us confess our common faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us glorify Almighty God, who has shined his light upon his creatures. Now, may he once more shine his abundant mercy upon those who glorify his name in song. Almighty Lord our God, raise us to life and have mercy on us.

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious and almighty Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, you are the true Light, who cast out the darkness of sin, and shined into our hearts the joy and hope of your eternal Kingdom.

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord, accept the prayers of all your faithful children throughout the world, who call out to you with one mind, one voice, and one heart. Through your beloved disciple John, you promised that if we walk in

your light, then we will have communion with one another, and your precious blood will cleanse us of all sin. Bring us that blessed communion, O Saviour!
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us peace, O Loving Lord, and remove the scourge of civil unrest and violence from the face of the earth. Change the hearts of all who make war and touch the wounds of all who are afflicted, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Sudan, Myanmar, Syria, Cameroon, Thailand, Cambodia, Venezuela, Iran, and the United States. Let the light of your love shine in all the dark places of our world and hasten the day when all peoples may dwell in peace with justice.
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

O Refuge and Shelter, Lord Jesus Christ, look with compassion on refugees throughout the world, who suffer the agony of displacement and the loss of their homes. Move us to manifest our communion with you, with them and with each other through gestures of hospitality and loving help.
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

O Christ, our Saviour, we pray for the people of Zion United Church, St. George's Anglican Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church. May your Spirit work in our congregations, that we may find common purpose as your hands and feet in New Hamburg and beyond.
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

Shine the light of your righteousness and wisdom on all your creatures. Make us children of light and children of the day, so that we may always live our lives reverently,

and become for all the world, worthy lampstands for
your life-giving light.
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

For you are our Saviour, and to you be glory, dominion
and honour, now and always and unto the ages of ages.
Amen.

Sharing of the

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly shares a sign of peace

Offering

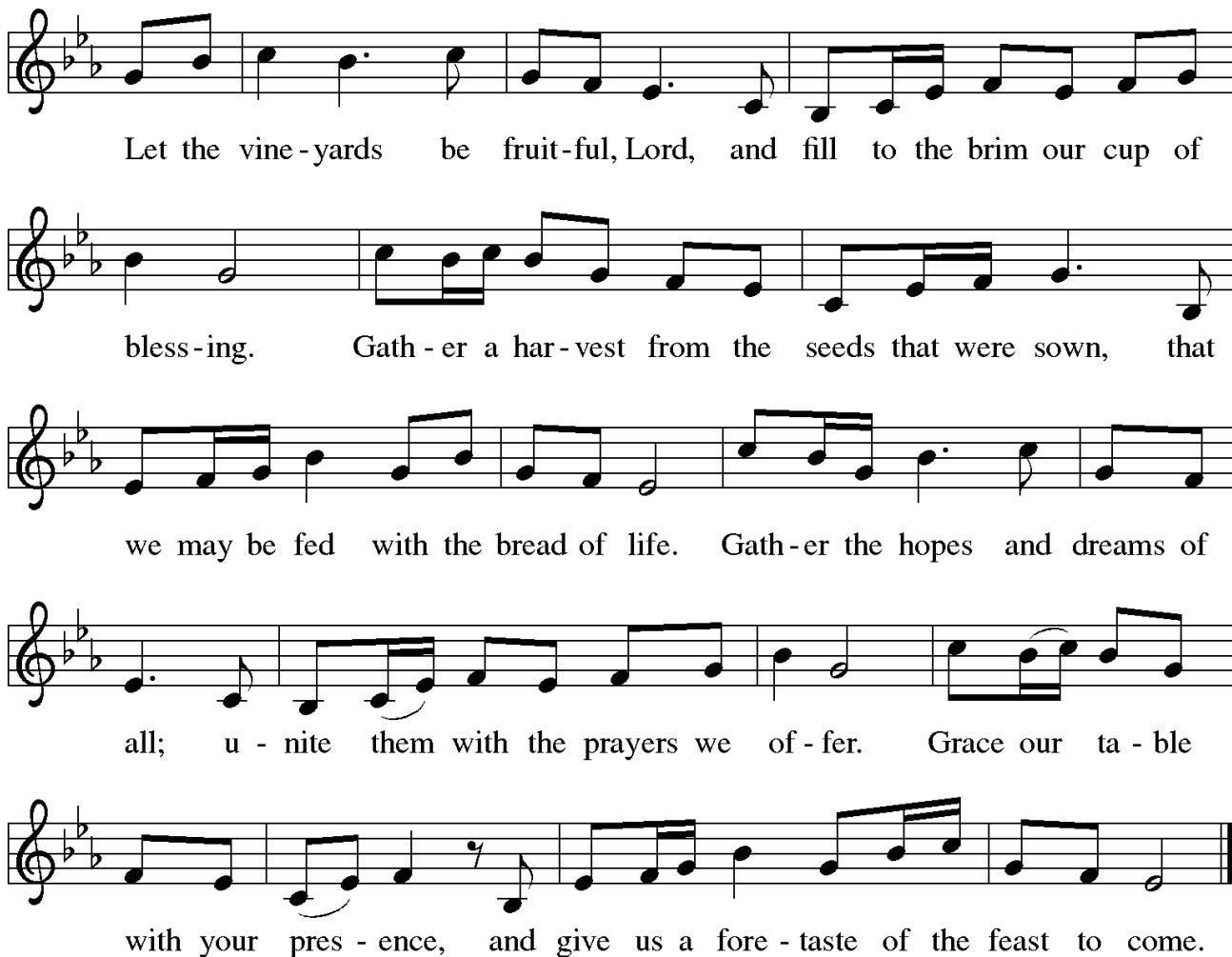
*The offering is received. Offerings given in
congregational envelopes (Zion, St. George's, Trinity) will
be given to each church.*

Music

Let There Be Light – Thomas Keeseker

Offertory Song *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

The assembly stands to sing



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

Meal

Dialogue

**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.

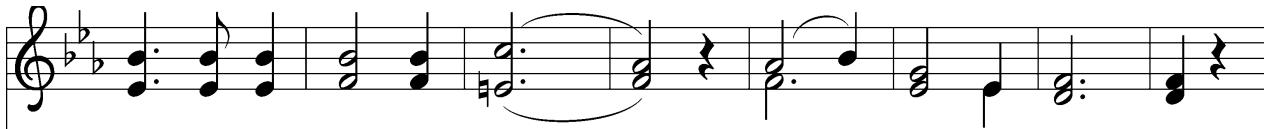
Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

A musical score in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics 'Hail, Hail, the Lord' are written below the notes.

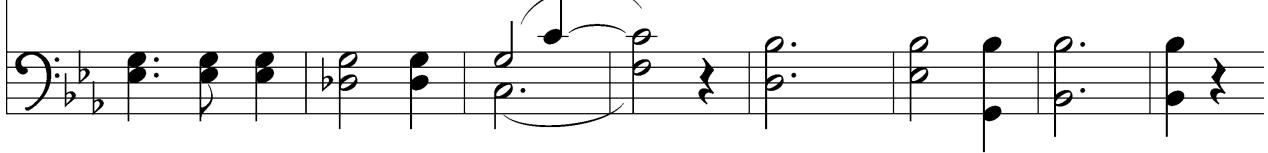
Music score for 'Holy, Holy, Holy' featuring a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The lyrics 'ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,' are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides harmonic support with sustained notes.

continued...

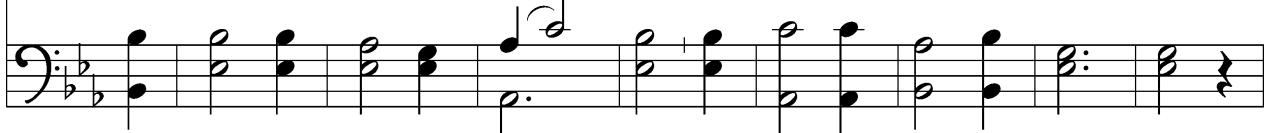


heav-en and earth are full,

full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

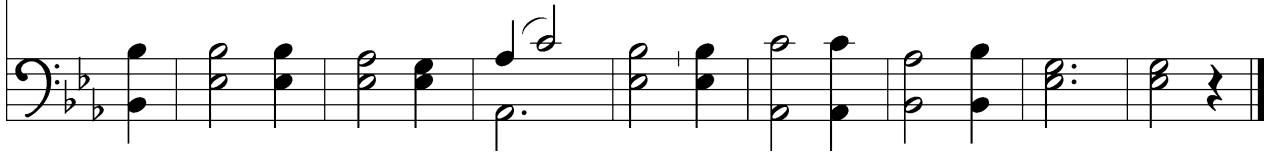


Bless-ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



**Thanksgiving
Prayer**

Responses:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

Invitation

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.
All are invited. All are welcome.
Thanks be to God.

Distribution

At Trinity, all are welcome to receive Holy Communion, both bread and wine. Ushers will invite each pew to come forward. Those with mobility needs may identify themselves to an usher and communion will be brought to your pew.

Both communion bread and gluten free wafers are available.

There are two options for receiving wine after receiving and eating the bread:

- You may take a small cup, and the communion assistant will pour wine in it from the pouring chalice. Once used, small cups can be deposited in baskets by side windows*
- You may receive the words “the blood of Christ shed for you” without consuming the wine*

Communion Song *Will You Come and Follow Me*

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life - be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

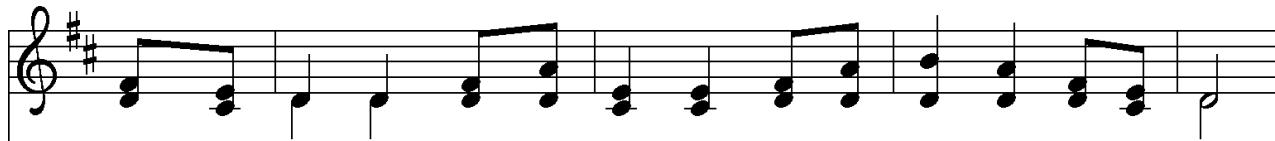
grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Communion Song *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

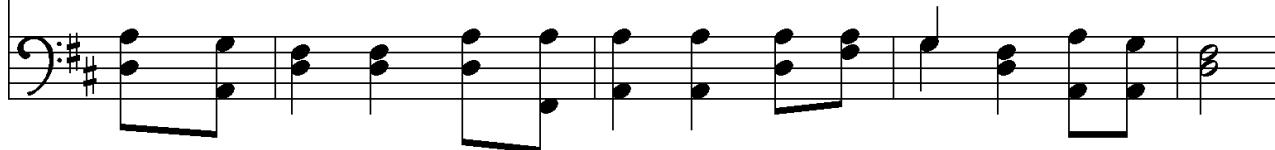
1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

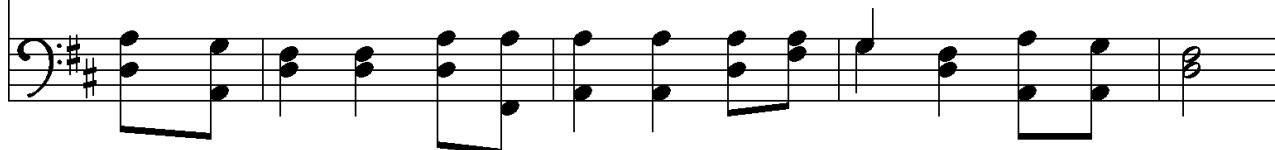
Communion Song *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

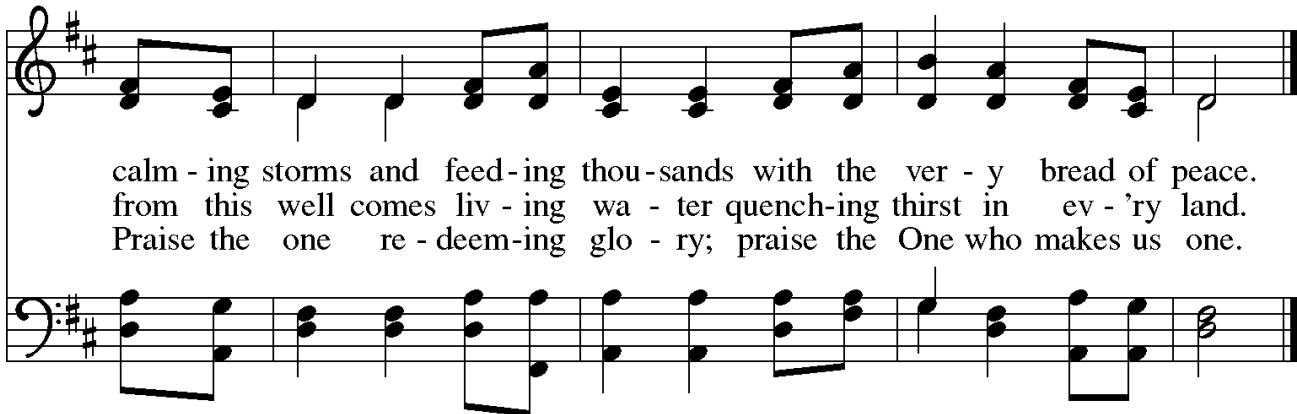


praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see - ing what our God has done.





calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

**Prayer after
Communion** *The assembly stands*

Sending

Blessing May the peace you experience here silence the sounds of conflict and weapons of warfare.

May the joy of knowing you are loved conquer hatred and mend broken relationship in the community.

May the love that surrounds you break down walls and barriers of political, social, and physical indifference.

May the  Creator, Redeemer, and Santifier, bless you richly with healing grace. May you be a blessing to others, showing acts of kindness to your neighbour and all you encounter.

Amen.

Sending Song *The Church's One Foundation*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn-ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Dismissal Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Fanfare* – Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

All are invited downstairs to Trinity Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

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