

Trinitarian Congregational Church
TakeOut
April 3, 2022

Announcements

Prelude: O Stor Gud (How Great Thou Art) Swedish Folk
Song, arr. By Gail Smith

Call to Worship: Suzanne Smith

Leader: Praise God who restores the well-being of his people.

Let us sing and shout with joy.

People: We rejoice in God who has done great things for us. We thank God who is doing new things among us today. Leader:

Forgetting what lies behind, let us greet our future. Let us press on, responding to the upward call of Christ. **People: Our faith compels us to follow Christ.**

We want to live in the power of his resurrection.

Leader: Set aside your hesitation and judgment;

Respond with zeal to the lavish love of God.

People: We will pursue the true practices of the gospel. We will sow the word of hope and reap together with joy.

***Hymn** I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty NCH 50

I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 I sing the praise of Love al - might - y, which shines re - vealed in
 2 How lov - ing - kind you are, how gen - tle, how your heart reach - es
 3 Se - cure my heart and all my be - ing, in you, my Sav - ior,
 4 May my heart bear the deep im - pres - sion of love that Je - sus

Je - sus' face. I of - fer up all that de - lights me,
 af - ter mine! My heart re - sponds in el - e - men - tal
 cru - ci - fied. You gave your life to work my heal - ing,
 shares with me, My life be - come a pure ex - pres - sion

all mean de - sires, each fond em - brace, Turn from my - self, in
 sym - pa - thy, beat - ing per - fect time. This mu - tual love, this
 bleed - ing for me, you groaned and died. Be - lov - ed Je - sus,
 of all that Chris - tian love can be: Each word, each act, a

pure de - vo - tion, and ea - ger plunge in love's vast o - cean.
 strong at - trac - tion, I know no oth - er sat - is - fac - tion.
 my sal - va - tion, you have, through love, re - stored cre - a - tion.
 bright re - flec - tion of joy in Love's own res - ur - rec - tion.

Gerhard Tersteegen was an eighteenth-century hymnwriter and mystic, nurtured in the German Reformed Church. The four stanzas that comprise "Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe" were drawn from a longer poem and became popular in this form when published by Pastor Johannes Evangelist Gossner in his Choralbuch of 1825.

Tune: ST. PETERSBURG 9.8.9.8.9.9.
Dimitri Bormiansky, 1825

Creating God, we thank you for the wonders of Christ's love and the new life he offers through his high calling. Keep us from settling for lesser goals, so that we may set aside our own interests for the well-being of our community. Help us to honor the sacrifices others have made and remain humble in our own contributions. May our spirits be one of gratitude rather than judgment and love rather than self-centeredness. Restore us and do great things within and among us, that the name of Christ may be glorified. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, reign without end. Amen, amen.

Gloria Patri

Reception of New Member – *Ed Foster*

Call of New Member
Scripture
Confession of Faith
The Covenant of Worship and Service
Confession of our Common Faith : Nicene Creed insert
Welcome to the Church
Prayer
Blessing
Gift from Ed - Poem

Scripture

Psalm 126 Suzanne Smith

This is the seventh psalm in a collection called 'songs of the ascent' used by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem for the three annual holy days. it remembers the restoration of Zion after the exile and seeks renewal of the people of God.

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
⁶ Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

John 12:1-8 Rosemary Dawson

In the Gospel of John, this story is the last event before Jesus enters Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday. Just prior to this account Jesus has raised Lazarus from the dead and has incurred the condemnation of the Pharisees, who now set out to put him to death.

The family had significant connections with the elite of Jerusalem, and so Mary is held up as one who portrays the shocking intimacy of loyalty, trust, and love for Jesus and contrasts that with the disloyalty and dishonesty of Judas.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone so that she might keep it for the day of my burial." ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Special Music "Draw Me Nearer"

William H. Doane. Arr. Robert D. Vandall.

Sermon Six Days Before the Passover

John 12:1-8

This week, this whole season, has been a whirlwind. Several people have pointed out to me that I am more than half-way through my ministry with you. Others have reminded me that Holy Week is quickly bearing down on us. There is so much more to do, so much to share with you. And the time, well, the time is growing short.

I wonder if that is how Jesus felt as he sat at table with his disciples and friends. It was six days before the Passover. And Jesus would climb the hill just outside of Bethany, the hill called the Mount of Olives, and descend into Jerusalem riding a donkey to shouts of 'Hosanna, Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Six days before the Passover. The end of his life is in sight. The authorities are plotting to kill him. But today, this evening, he is having supper in the home of his friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Jesus has been speaking now for a long time about this last journey, preparing his disciples and friends for what will soon happen. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' words? Frankly they could not grasp it, they didn't understand and didn't want to understand. They think they are going to go to Jerusalem to start an uprising that will take back the nation from the Romans. After all, that's what the Messiah is expected to do! The Messiah is the conquering hero who breaks the back of Israel's oppressors and sets the people free!

Six days before the Passover. And while the men are debating the meaning of the moment that has come upon them, while they plan and organize and gear up for the battle... Mary quietly steals away to her room. When she returns, she is carefully holding an alabaster jar of pure nard – a very, very

expensive perfume. She goes to where Jesus is reclining at table. She kneels. She opens the jar. She pours out the perfume over Jesus' feet. And the fragrance fills the house. Mary uncovers her head and wipes Jesus' feet with her hair. And then Judas speaks. "What a waste! This perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor!"

Six days before the Passover. And only Mary perceives it, and acts. She knows the tensions in Jerusalem. She knows the rumors about their religious leaders. She has listened carefully to Jesus' words. She sees the strain on his face, and the hunch of his shoulders. She is nearly brought to tears.

Six days before the Passover. She looks around at these men – steady Andrew and impetuous Peter, James and John, the sons of thunder, even arrogant and weaselly Judas. And then her eyes fall on her brother, Lazarus, a man who, just a few weeks before, had been raised from death by Jesus himself. And then she smiles. She knows. Jesus sees the transformation. And then he says "Leave her alone, so that she might keep it for the day of my burial."

Six days before the Passover. And the gospel is enacted, not by the Man of Galilee, but by a woman of Bethany- acting as a prophet, even if she was not fully aware. Anointing Jesus with oil. Anointing the dead for burial. Anointing a King for his throne. Jesus, the Anointed one of God.

Six days before the Passover. And an act of faith and praise and hope fill the room with fragrant perfume. An act of extravagant love, pouring out a costly gift that knew no bounds. An act of passion and grace that stuns others with its extravagance and power. You might even say it was folly. But sometimes when you really love someone you just can't do enough for them. You are willing to risk it all, the cost, the humility, the shame.

Six days before the Passover. Soon it would be Jesus who would bend down and wash the feet of his disciples. Soon Jesus would be stripped. Soon Jesus would be mocked. Soon Jesus would break open his body and pour out his precious blood for us. Soon Jesus would take the greatest treasure he owned, his own life, and in a wildly extravagant and foolish act give it as a costly gift that knew no bounds. Simply because he loves us, so fully and so deeply and so completely. A reckless waste? Or an extravagant, impassioned act of love?

Six days before the Passover. Can you smell the sweet, pungent fragrance hanging in the air?

Amen.

***Hymn** Savior, An Offering Costly and Sweet NCH 536

SERVICE

536

Savior, an Offering Costly and Sweet

John 12:1-3; Eph. 5:1-2

Edwin Parker, 1888; alt.

1 Sav - ior, an of - fer - ing cost - ly and sweet
 2 Dai - ly our lives would show weak - ness made strong,
 3 Some word of hope for hearts bur - dened with fears,
 4 Thus, ev - er serv - ing you, till e - ven - tide

Mar - y of Beth - an - y laid at your feet;
 toil - some and gloom - y ways bright - ened with song,
 some balm of peace for eyes swol - len with tears,
 clos - es the day of life, may we a - bide;

May our love's in - cense rise sweet - er than sac - ri - fice,
 Some deeds of kind - ness done, some souls by pa - tience won,
 Some dew's of mer - cy shed, some way - ward foot - steps led,
 And when earth's la - bors cease, bid us de - part in peace,

Sav - ior to you, dear Sav - ior to you.
 Sav - ior to you, dear Sav - ior to you.
 Sav - ior to you, dear Sav - ior to you.
 Sav - ior to you, dear Sav - ior to you.

Edwin P. Parker served as the minister of the Second Church of Christ (South Congregational Church) in Hartford, Connecticut, for fifty years. Parker was also a choir director, composer, and arranger. He wrote this hymn to summarize a sermon.

Tune: LOVE'S OFFERING 6.4.6.4.6.6.4.5.
 Edwin Parker, 1888

Prayers of the People

Loving God, we thank you and praise you for your boundless mercy and inexhaustible goodness to us. We thank you for the precious gift of salvation given through Christ, and for pouring out the richness of his Spirit to us. We are awed by your gracious generosity, and we want to respond with an equal love of abandonment and commitment.

And so we pray, for your church and for this congregation. May our hearts be filled by wonders of your grace, and follow with joy the way of Christ. May we celebrate all the gifts you have granted to us and use them for your glory, sharing with others the extravagance of your love.

We pray for our world and its leaders. May they find insight and hope and grow in generous, compassionate spirits, so that all peoples may know your bounty and receive true justice. We pray as well for all who are suffering today. May the ill receive your healing, the sorrowful – your compassion, and the needy – your aid. We especially lift up... and we thank you for...

We thank you and praise you, O God, for all your goodness to us, through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Choral Response Remember Me

Offering

The most lavish gifts we can bring are never enough to thank God for all we have received. Yet the tiniest offerings we present do not escape God's notice when given heartfelt gratitude and true commitment. Let us dedicate our gifts with joy.

Extravagant God, we are glad for all the good things you have done for us. All we can offer pales in value when compared to Jesus Christ, yet we give in gratitude and praise. To that end, bless these offerings and our lives, that Christ may be proclaimed and the needy be blessed. Amen.

Doxology (choose the one that is best for your faith)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below,
praise him above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen

Communion

*Hymn I Come with Joy NCH 349

I Come with Joy

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that

loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 all are fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Invitation

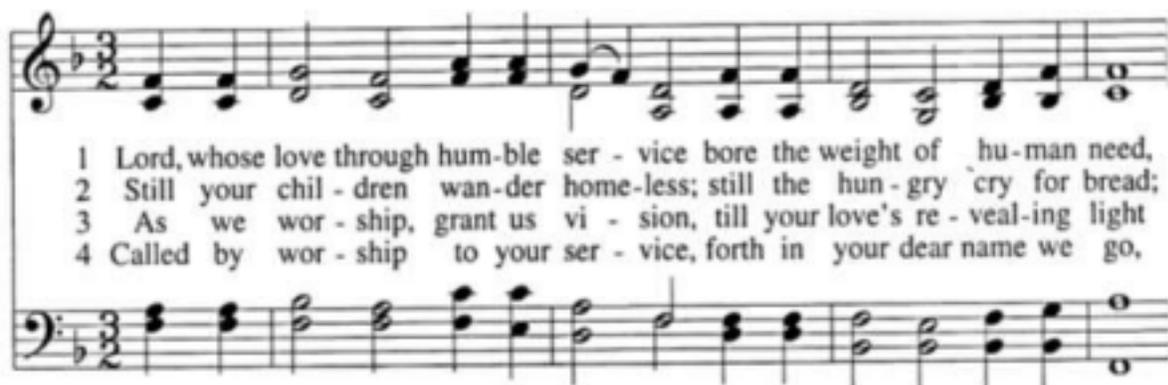
Great Thanksgiving

Consecration and Service

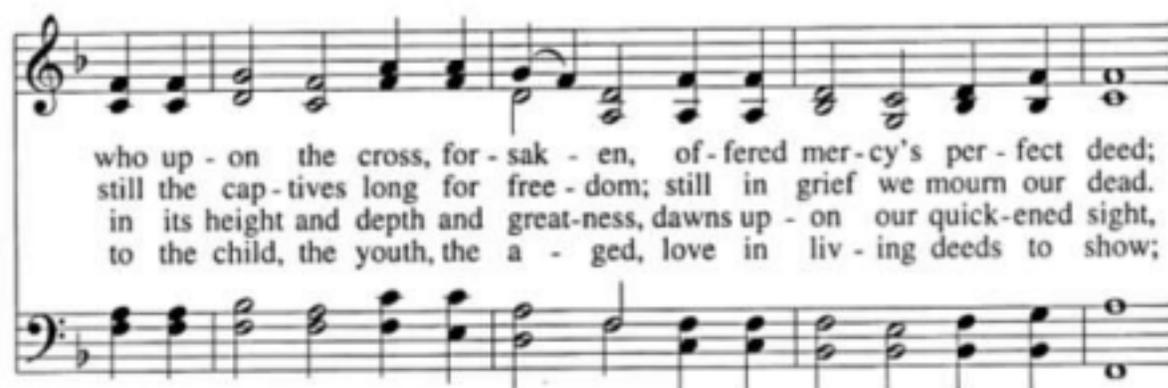
Prayer of Gratitude

* **Hymn** Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service W&R 575

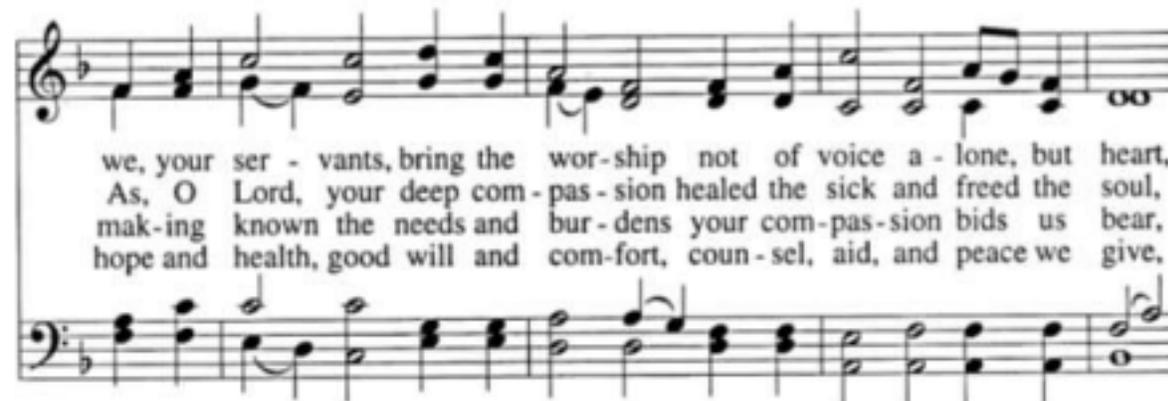
575 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil - dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed;
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness, dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart,
 As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
 use the love your Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
 stir - ring us to tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879); *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-)

BEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D.

Winds © 1981 Oxford University Press
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***Common Commission**

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

***Benediction**

*** Benediction**

Go now into the world

And may the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ.
2 Thessalonians 3:5

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Postlude Jesus Refuge of the Weary/When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Arr.
Brett Michaels

music provided by Chris Harris and Lynne Walker