



A Place to Belong

May 2020

Words from Our Pastor



Jim Rauch
Interim Pastor

As I write, California is still in a state of economic lock-down. The Covid-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc on the global economy. Each day various officials and news channels announce the grim statistics of how many people have died from the virus and how many people are on ventilators. There is a lot of bad news out there.

And at the same time, there is a lot of positive reports out there as well. There are people helping other people. I was inspired by the story of the 43 men who lived for a month inside the Braskem

petrochemical plant in Marcus Hook, PA. This company produces the material for face masks and surgical gowns. These employees knew that if they got sick it would slow the production of these vital lifesaving materials which were needed in hospitals. They volunteered to stay quarantined inside their facility, work long hours, and sleep on air mattresses. They essentially lived at their job for a month, separated from their families in order to help out other people in need whom they will probably never meet face-to-face. One day their families staged a "drive by parade" so that all of the employees could wave to them through the windows. One of the supervisors of the team told the Washington Post "We were just happy to be able to help." Stories like these make us happy, grateful, and perhaps proud to be Americans.

The pressing challenge for all of us is the task of reopening our communities, businesses, schools, churches, and social networks. The road ahead is uncertain because we don't have all of the information needed to make perfect decisions. We've never been through anything quite like this before.

As we plan for the future for Trinity Presbyterian Church, there are a few things that I'm thinking about...

- 1. We have seen both the strengths and the weaknesses of "online church."** On the positive side, our technology has allowed us to keep a form of connectedness using YouTube, Zoom, email, and other tools of the digital revolution. This has been very helpful to many of us who know that it's important to continue to worship God on a weekly basis and to stay connected to God's family through prayer and fellowship. Our "online church"

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REMEMBER! You can see this publication in color. Just go to the Trinity Church website, click on "Ministries" in the navigation bar and go to the last item on the list, "Newsletter."

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Words from Our Pastor

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services have been a blessing – it makes me happy when many of us are able to connect on Sunday morning to “see each other” on our screens and share greetings and prayers. This new form of Trinity Church has even allowed some members who have not been able to attend worship physically to feel a deeper sense of connection to the church by joining in online worship. As I consider the good things about online worship, I also realize that this form of fellowship and worship is far from ideal. Jesus came as a real flesh-and-blood human being because we human beings didn’t just need a message, an idea, a book, or a smart phone – we needed Immanuel – God’s presence WITH us. The online church does not allow the same level of personal interaction that we human beings need for emotional and spiritual health. Our goal is to get back together physically when we are able so that we can sing together in the same place, take communion together with the same elements, and see our brothers and sisters in Christ face-to-face rather than screen-to-screen.

2. We will not all be returning to the church campus at the same time, in the same way. When the restrictions on group gatherings are lifted, it will likely be gradually and cautiously. Individuals will be making their own choices as they balance health risks with the desire to connect with others in public places. A good quote I read recently by the writer Damian Barr made things very clear for me: “We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the

same storm.” I agree very much with this idea. For some people the lock-down from the virus has been a minor inconvenience. Other people’s lives have been dramatically upended by the virus. They are at risk of losing almost



everything they value – homes, businesses, and emotional well-being. For some people, this virus has meant hospitalization or death for themselves or for a loved one. As we consider the return to being together in worship, we know that some of our members, in order to safeguard their health or the health of others in their family, will not be ready to return for many weeks or perhaps months. Others may be ready to return but will not want to get within six feet of anyone else – and they know that “church people” will tend to violate those boundaries with all of those handshakes and hugs and tight church pews, so they will wait it out for a while. Others will be back at church right away, not concerned at all with “social distancing.” My hope and prayer is that we will be gracious and patient with each other as we recognize that each of us has different health challenges and different comfort levels related to the risks of the virus.

3. We will need to continue some form of online worship even when the sanctuary is opened up for worship on Sunday mornings. Since not everyone will be returning to worship at the same time, it will be prudent and loving for our congregation to continue offering online options for people. Many churches with younger membership groups have been offering the online option for years. Many older congregations just started working on this due to the pandemic. It makes sense for Trinity Church to keep in mind the many members who may not be able for health reasons to come to the physical sanctuary. Trinity Church has been reaching out to those members for many years through the audio recordings being available on the church website. As we move forward we have learned a bit about how we might make video services.

These are just a few rough thoughts as we look forward to how God will be leading all of us into the future that only God can see with perfect clarity. The elders, deacons, and staff members of Trinity Church will continue to work together as we make this journey together. Please let us know what your thoughts and concerns are as you consider your own plans for keeping connected to the Trinity Church family during the coming months. We are not all in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm, and we all have the same Lord Jesus Christ who holds us in the palm of his hand.

In Christ,

Interim Pastor Jim Rauch

Part of the Garden of God

My brother loves his garden. It consumes his every waking, non-working moment. A monument to a passion for the incredible diversity of native plants found in San Diego County, his garden creates a small version of what our county used to look like. For me, this garden brings comfort and solace during a time of change unlike any other in my lifetime. I wake up to the fragrance of our local lilac wafting through the open window. Unlike the heady scent of its eastern cousin, the aroma is light and wispy like a spring breeze. The color of spring covers the whole garden – purples and oranges of every hue, delicate blues and whites – like a life-sized kaleidoscope.



God gave Adam and Eve an exquisite garden to tend. Genesis says that God walked with them in the cool of the day. I can imagine the excitement of Adam and Eve to show their God all the wonderful sights in their garden

– the fruit, the flowers – that they tended. Then sin came. No longer allowed to remain in the garden, Adam and Eve walked with God no

more. Life became hard, filled with the desperate labor of living. Then Jesus came. He died to once and for all bring us into right relationship with God and each other. And as the “Second Adam,” he now tends a new garden, his church.

As a depository of a wide variety of plants that require different amounts of water, soil, and sunlight, each plant in my brother’s garden receives special attention. His eagle eye spots the least change in his haven. Many of his plants are on the verge of extinction, growing in a singular gulch or hillside. The death of one plant means that species is one step closer to no longer gracing a planet that God created with such

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Good Tidings from Your Pastor Nominating Committee

About two months ago your Pastor Nominating Committee asked the national Presbytery for more candidate resumes. As we contacted the candidates, several did not respond, and others said, “I can’t apply now. The quarantine means I need to take care of my current flock/congregation” which was a good answer. We are looking for a pastor who cares about his people. We began to realize that God had a different schedule for us.

Further, because of the quarantine even if we had a candidate, there would be no Trinity Church to visit, no place to hear the candidate’s

sermons, no way to meet them in person. God has his timing.

BUT we have been looking at a California person who has a young family. He cannot be an official candidate yet because he is still going through the one-year Ministry Preparation process. We could officially talk with him early this summer. The good news is the Committee on Preparation for Ministry is working closely with him to somehow finish this process in a timely manner amidst the quarantine process.

Please continue to pray for a godly man who loves the Lord, his Word,

and his people. As things are beginning to open up, we will begin our meetings when they are allowed, probably on Zoom or in person.

God has been faithful. He brought us two interims who love the Lord, his people, and his Word ... both named Jim! God is faithful in his timing and his choices!

Psalm 37:4 “Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

Co-chairs: Jimmie Drummond and Bobette Barford

PNC Members: Bob Klein, Linda Hensley, Don Axe, and Tom McMurry

Life has Changed Dramatically: Part 2

This report is an extension of last month's article. We are currently still running our classrooms off-campus, stretching our experience and knowledge of technology. It involves so much more time and attention to translate classroom lessons into meaningful lessons online. In addition, teachers are available for parent/student contact between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. when they are not already scheduled for Google Classroom or Zoom meetings.

We had a very successful drop-off/pick-up event on Monday, April 13th. Each teacher prepared an additional packet for their students of textbooks, worksheets, craft items, and additional materials. Then they placed their

student packets in a family bag so that when the cars drove through the drop-off/pick-up line they could be handed the family bag containing all their children's packets. In exchange, the students dropped off their completed work from the prior weeks which were sorted into classroom boxes. All participants stayed in their cars as requested and had great fun seeing each other through the car windows. We are looking forward to another drop-off/pick-up planned for Monday, May 4th.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers on behalf of the school during this time. Many of our student and staff families are experiencing stress trying to maintain a new reality for life. Parents attempting to work from home

and having children that are learning to attend school at home at the same time is challenging. Other parents can't go to work and are available to help their students but are unsure of their financial future. As Christians, we are blessed because we can have hope as we read in Isaiah 31:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you: do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." And again it says, "For I am the Lord, your God, who takes your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 31:13.

Sharon Axe
Principal

Jimmie Drummond
Principal



"Perfect Love"

By Patricia Kelly

I thought at first that I had painted a broken rose, but my friend said "No, I see two flowers in one – a pink rose and a pink peony." So I looked up what these two flowers mean.

A Pink Rose = **perfection**. The giver finds the recipient perfect in their eyes. It also means gentleness and sweetness, when combined with other pink flowers. It also benefits others, and represents renewal and joyful new beginnings.

Pink Peonies mean love at first sight, also **resurrection**, and heritage.

I find it no coincidence that we are close to Easter time. God completely changed my perspective of the message behind the painting, from looking at the brokenness to looking at God and what he says. I personally felt like I was painting my heart feeling broken right now – which was part of the honest process with him – but he showed me I also painted Jesus' pure, perfect love bursting out for me, the church – his bride, and this world! He sees us already as the perfect new creation we are, even though we are still in our process – He already sees us as perfect. **And this perfect love is casting out fear** (1 John 4:18)!



Trinity Christian School has their first-ever homework drop-off and pick-up event



Part of the Garden of God

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love and devotion. If you ask my brother about the plants in his garden, you will get the scientific name along with its specific locale, water needs, the pollination, the necessary soil and more. Oh how he loves this garden. His words dance as he articulates his knowledge.

In the same way, Jesus tends to each of us – giving to us, providing for us, all that we need to grow, flower, and produce fruit. Jesus knows each of us intimately. He knows our true names – the deepest parts of who we are. He knows the pain, the joy, all of it. Where healing is needed, he brings both his Spirit and others around to help heal us. Just as my brother's garden contains an incredible diversity, so too, in the garden of Jesus the incredible uniqueness of each of us is on display. Because of our distinctiveness, he gives a place and purpose to each of us that no other person can fill.

And what is all this for? Is there a purpose for this garden, the church? C. S. Lewis explains in *Mere Christianity*, "... the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose." This garden, filled with brilliant color and delightful fragrance, lives to show the world the love and beauty of Jesus and his desire to save every human being. Even during this time of isolation, I pray we find ways to be the garden of God, fulfilling our purpose in the grand design of our Father and the Lord Jesus through his Spirit.

Rebecca DeBreau
Communications Director

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FOR ALL THOSE WITHOUT EMAIL OR CELL PHONES!

The Trinity Church staff wants to make sure all of the Trinity Church family is in the loop.

If you do not have email or a cell phone where we can communicate with you by email express or texts, please let us know if you need anything, would like to talk to Pastor Jim, or just chat. You can call Rebecca DeBreau at 619-733-1540 and she will get you connected with your care group leaders or with Pastor.

Presbyterian Women



FUTURE DATES TO WORK TOWARD:

June 26th and 27th is our planned Rummage Sale. Now would be a great time to box up rummage items

November 7th is our planned Fall Festival. Now is also a great time to bake and freeze goods, as well as to our crafting, knitting, cross-stitching, sewing skills to create items for this wonderful annual event that provides funds to help support our missionaries.

Clippers

Ahoy mates!

A check of the barometer indicates that we won't sail into port in the merry month of May. So, it looks like we are adrift for another month. If the stormy seas relent, we may be able to dock on June 20th. Keep in mind our auction and consider what you may offer. Our missionaries are hurting during this time, probably more than we are, as their sponsorship has diminished as has their one-on-one time serving God's people. You may want to consider giving to our missionaries through Trinity Church.

I look forward to the day when the church can come back to our facility.

Jack the ancient mariner, over and out.

The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. Psalm 23:1 (NLT)

Hello Trinity Church Family,

With the recent Easter season, the resurrection of Christ gives us renewed hope and peace in this new restricted world. Although we are called to congregate for services, Bible studies, and worship online these days, it is no less sweet to see all of you through my computer screen. It is a blessing that Pastor Jim, Bill Coe, and Shirley Woodson have figured out ways to minister to us in our homes.

As you can see by the financial report, we are currently keeping up with our

financial obligations, your response during this stay-at-home season has been encouraging. Many of you give automatically through your bank bill-pay, a few of you have dropped off your tithes during our drive-through, some of you started using our online giving link available on our website: www.trinitypres.org, several of you use the good old-fashioned United States Postal Service, and a few of you use the mail slot in the church office door!

No matter how you send your gifts to Trinity Church, your continuing

support allows us to carry on the mission of proclaiming the good news of Jesus, and it is an important message for our world to hear today and every day. Thank you for all the ways you support Trinity Church spiritually, personally, and financially. God will reward our faithfulness!

Rebecca Casey

Financial Administrator

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	February Final	March Final	Year to Date (As of 01/30/2020)
BUDGETED INCOME	\$29,874.64	\$29,874.64	\$ 89,624.08
ACTUAL INCOME	\$24,598.32	\$29,874.72	\$ 85,778.38
DIFFERENCE	– \$ 5,276.32	– \$ 4,071.98	– \$ 3,845.70
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$26,505.52	\$24,463.44	\$ 88,099.34
INCOME – EXPENSE	– \$ 1,907.20	–\$ 9,483.265	– \$ 2,320.96

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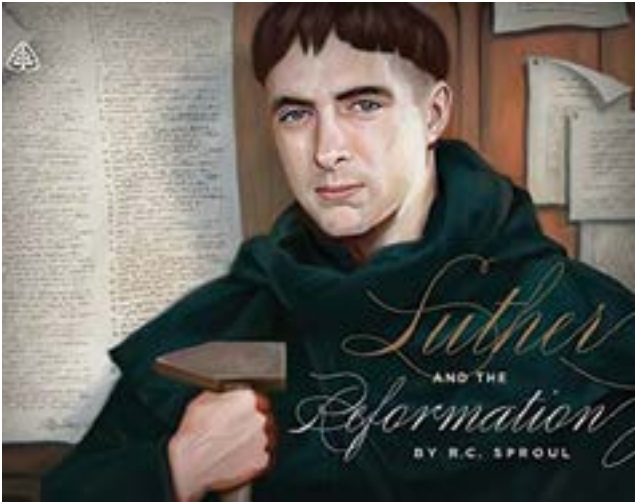
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**Join our new
Wednesday evening
study beginning
May 6th**

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

From 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., join via Zoom and your internet connection as Pastor Jim Rauch leads us in a discussion of the history of Christianity with a focus on the Protestant Reformation. We will learn together about how the beliefs and worship of global Christianity has been impacted by the work of the Protestant Reformers of the 16th Century. We will also have time for prayer and worship through our online community. Watch the emails from Trinity Church each week for info on how to connect to these online meetings. A portion of each meeting will include a brief video presentation by Reformation expert Dr. R. C. Sproul.

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