

TCC Takeout

An Order of Service for Worship at Home

*God's Extravagant Welcome:
"No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey, YOU are
welcome here!"*



**Seventh Sunday of Easter
Memorial Day Weekend
May 24, 2020**

Announcements

From Ted Thornton

TCC Takeout is a liturgy for these times when we find ourselves without a settled pastor and apart from one another physically. Links will take you to materials appointed for this Sunday in the Lectionary.

I will be stepping down from all ministerial and administrative duties on May 31. Details are in the Trumpet Blast.

Please send announcements for the weekly Trumpet Blast and prayers for Joys and Concerns to me as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday noon for inclusion in the following Sunday's Order of Service. Printed copies of both this service and the Blast will be mailed or delivered to the doorsteps of members who do not use computers. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Many thanks to Chris and Heather for providing the music for this service.

From Chris Harris: At My Piano

"Some of the most poignant paeans to patriotism came out of or were inspired by the American Civil War, including "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Marching through Georgia," "Ashokan Farewell," "Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier," "The Cruel War is Raging," and "Battle Cry of Freedom," which goes, "Yes, we'll rally round the flag, boys, we'll rally once again, Shouting the battle cry of freedom, We will rally from the hillside, we'll gather from the plain, Shouting the battle cry of freedom." For Memorial Day, I offer this link to "[Battle Cry of Freedom](#)," arranged and performed by Jacqueline Schwab."

Prelude [Highland Cathedral](#)

Introit [O Sons and Daughters Let Us Sing](#) [Richard Proulx, The Cathedral Singers](#)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of Heaven, the glorious King,
Over death today rose triumphing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
That Easter morn, at break of day,
The faithful women went their way
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
An angel clad in white they see,
Who sat, and spake unto the three,

Your Lord doth go to Galilee.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
That night th'apostles met in fear;
Amidst them came their Lord most dear,
And said, My peace be on all here.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
On this most holy day of days
Our hearts and voices, Lord, we raise
To Thee, in jubilee and praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Worship

One: We shout for joy
to God who rides upon the clouds!

**All: We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,
before whom the earth quakes,
and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

One: God is Sovereign over the earth,
Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans;
God creates families for those who are alone.

**All: God leads captives to freedom
and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

One: God goes forth before the people,
marching through the wilderness of their lives,

bringing forth restoration and justice.

**All: Sing praise to God,
Rider of the ancient skies,
who dwells in holiness.**

One: Proclaim the power of God!

**All: O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!
You give power and strength to your people.**

One: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn [At the Name of Jesus](#)

Gathering Prayer

God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you.
Receive our invitation to dwell with us.
Enfold us in your presence and
fill us again with holy awe and mystery.
We are yours and we claim you as our God. 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,
World without end,
Amen, Amen

Anthem [Psalm 47 O Clap Your Hands-Vaughan Williams](#)

Reading From Scripture [Acts 1:6-14](#)

“For the word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God Among Us, For the Word of God Within Us, Thanks Be to God”

Reflection: Ted

The Easter season is winding down. Today we mark the day the resurrected Christ physically departed the world, to be replaced, of course, by the Holy Spirit. The joy we feel remembering and celebrating Jesus’ victory over the powers of evil and death gives way at this point to the work Christians are committed to carrying out: our mission, as we call it, guided by the Holy Spirit. For Jesus’ followers, their acceptance of his removal from the everyday world was the occasion that led them to embrace their own mission in the world.

In Acts 1:11 we read that two men dressed in white (were they angels?) chastise the disciples, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky?” This was their way of telling the

disciples (now called apostles, or, “messengers”) to redirect their gaze downward from the heavens and outward toward the world around them, a world in desperate need of their message, their ministry, and their service. Jesus will continue to be present with them but their job was to get to work.

In any case, the question, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky?,” might apply just as readily to us at TCC today as to those first apostles back then. Quentin Chin, our recent interim pastor, spent six months leading us through a discernment process. Does our decision at annual meeting to try to hire a new full-time pastor mean we’ve completed that process? I don’t think so.

In our reading this morning from Acts, the disciples gird themselves for work and return to Jerusalem. Their first piece of business was an internal one: filling an administrative and pastoral gap. That piece of internal business was to choose an apostle to replace the traitor Judas. That’s how Matthias came on board.

Bringing Matthias into the inner circle was the first step the newly restructured body of apostles took to carry on the work Jesus had begun. That first administrative decision was made without Jesus physically present, sitting at the end of the table running the meeting. So, what has to happen at TCC before its mission to itself and to the wider community can become restructured and fully coherent and purposeful? This will remain an important question for TCC when your new pastor comes on board.

Another major lesson for us in today’s reading from Acts is that carrying out the mission of the church is not sustainable without prayer. The two go hand in hand. It’s prayer that gives meaning, strength, purpose, and endurance to a healthy congregation and the acts of loving kindness its members carry out for others. Prayer is crucial to discernment of mission. It was so for the first apostles, and it is so for TCC today. In all cases when we pray, the Holy Spirit will guide us. I pray that TCC will make the right decisions for itself.

Hymn of Reflection [Holy Spirit, come to us \(Tui amoris ignem\)](#)

[Taizé](#)

Holy Spirit, come to us (Tui amoris ignem)

Taizé

Holy Spirit come to us,
Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Holy Spirit come to us.

Jesus said it is by your love

For one another

That everyone will recognize,

You as my disciple.

Jesus said, no one has greater love than
this,

To lay down one's life

For those one loves.

We know all by this

That Christ laid down His life for us.

This is love

It is not we who had loved God

But God who loved us.

Holy Spirit come to us,

Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Holy Spirit come to us.

Anthem [Here I Am, Lord](#)

[John Michael Talbot](#)

I the lord of sea and sky
 I have heard my people cry
 All who dwell in dark and sin
 My hand will save
 I have made the stars of night
 I will make their darkness bright
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall i send?
 Here I am Lord
 Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard You calling in the night

I will go Lord
 If You lead me
 I will hold Your people in my heart
 I the lord of wind and flame
 I will tend the poor and lame
 I will set a feast for them
 My hand will save
 Finest bread i will provide
 Till their hearts be satisfied
 I will give my life to them
 Whom shall i send?

Joys and Concerns

Please continue to keep the family of Alan Abel in your prayers. Please keep Margot Parker and her family in your prayers.

Pastoral Prayer

O God, you have exalted your Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and bring us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

Intercessions

Gracious God, your ascended Son left behind the gift of the Holy Spirit. Make your Spirit burn in our hearts with revelation and wisdom such that we may witness to your grace and forgiveness, freedom and hope, joy and salvation. Open our minds to understand your will, so that when sin cripples our hope, we may discover the freedom of your forgiveness; when suffering and death overtake our lives, we may know the joy of the Risen Christ; and when we feel abandoned, we may comprehend the power of the promised Spirit.

God, the parent of the Risen and Ascended Christ, you surround us with witnesses who have shown us the way. Inspire us with your Spirit to stop looking into the heavens and start doing the work of the kingdom. Help us to seek justice, becoming a people who nourish and clothe and lament. Help us to love kindness, becoming a people who forgive and accept forgiveness, a people who show mercy and live in charity. Help us to walk humbly with you, becoming a people whose secret identities melt away revealing the Christ living within.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbors.
 As his disciples in this age, we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe

in which we are privileged to live and our neighbors with whom we share it.
 Open our hearts to your power moving
 around us and between us and within us,
 until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy,
 in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
 and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

A Prayer for the Time of Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/02/coronavirus-prayer>

Hear O Lord, we pray, our petitions of general intercession. We pray for the lonely, for the bereaved, for the sick, for the aged, for those who feel overwhelmed by personal problems. We ask, on their behalf, for the comfort of your presence.

We pray especially for those in need who are on our hearts and minds and lips this morning. We pray for all who are ill or who suffer from any affliction: physical, mental, or spiritual. Bring healing and comfort to them, their families, and to those who care for them and to others who love them.

Bless and protect from harm all workers who risk their health and their lives in the service of others: first responders, police, doctors, nurses, and all others who work in the healing professions. We ask these things in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Now praying together as Jesus taught us, we say,

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 sins,
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power and the glory forever.
 Amen.

Prayer Response - NCH 769 - *Hear Our Prayer, O God* -- [Audio version](#)

Hear Our Prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God,
Incline Thine ear to us,
And Grant us your peace.

Closing Hymn [He is King of Kings](#)

Refrain:

He is King of kings;
he is Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ, the first and last,
no one works like him.
O he is King of kings;
he is Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ, the first and last,
no one works like him.

2 He pitched his tents on Canaan ground;
no one works like him;
and broke oppressive kingdoms down;
no one works like him.
O he is King of kings;
he is Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ, the first and last,
no one works like him. [Refrain]

1 He built his throne up in the air;
no one works like him;
and called his saints from everywhere;
no one works like him.
O he is King of kings;
he is Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ, the first and last,
no one works like him. [Refrain]

3 I know that my Redeemer lives;
no one works like him;
and by his love sweet blessing gives;
no one works like him.
O he is King of kings;
he is Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ, the first and last,
no one works like him. [Refrain]

Choral Benediction [Go Forth into the World; John Rutter - From the Book of Common Prayer](#)

Pastoral Benediction
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore.
Amen.

Postlude [Glenlivet- Traditional Scottish Music - Harp Duygu Aydogan](#)



TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
147 Main Street, Northfield, MA 01360
413 498-5839 / busoff147@gmail.com
<http://www.tccnorthfield.org/>