

Celtic Evensong
Trinity United Methodist Church
OCTOBER 31, 2021, 5 P.M.



Welcome and Announcements

Eileen Gilmer

Prelude

Theme from the 2nd movement of the *New World Symphony* Dvorák

A Prayer for the Evening

Neil Hough

Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ to rescue us from slavery and lead us out of captivity. Guide us by the wisdom of the cross and show us how to live a life of justice, love, and blessedness. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Neil Hough

To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned. To those who dwell in gloom and despair, God's glorious presence has appeared. God is our light and our salvation. We will follow, unafraid, where God leads us. Let us worship our God of light and promise. Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

Prayers of the People

Gilmer

Our prayer today is for all who are victims of cruel laws and petty laws, those who're subjected to prejudice denied opportunities, excluded, pushed to margins.

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for all those who're betrayed, who don't know loyalty, who fear to trust, or to love, and who don't realize that they're already loved by you.

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for the landless and homeless, the refugee and evicted, those who find themselves in foreign places and strange places.

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for the overworked and the underpaid, for those in dangerous work and those in compassionate work, for those who long to work but are denied the opportunity

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for the Church, for all the branches of the vine including this one we gather as part of, today:

body of Christ, people of Christ,

for whom the Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for the creation gifts,
this earth in all its mighty wonder, yet tender fragility,
the gifts of life and resources to treasure.
The Lord our God is one:
We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for those who lie close to our hearts
those whom we worry about, those whom we miss,
those who carry disproportionate burdens at this time ...
The Lord our God is one:
We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

*Written by Rev. Iain Macdonald
The Church of Scotland*

Musical Response *Alleluia*

Scripture Reading *Romans 5:1-5* **Hough**
Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Music for Meditation *Remember Me* **Anderson-Lopez & Lopez**

Message *One Decision Away from Joy* **Eileen Gilmer**

Music for Reflection *I'll Remember You* **Scott**

Reading *A Prayer for Living* by Cameron Bellm **Hough**
When our lofty words of love have been emptied of their meaning,
When our borders and computer screens have erected impenetrable walls,
When our minds are so quick to conflate "other" with "enemy,"
How will we find our common humanity?
It's never too late to make an earnest and tender start.
May we remove from our pockets the stones we intended to throw
And cement them together to build a home that welcomes all.
May we repent of our indifference and move into genuine encounter.
Instead of drawing battle lines,
May we draw our chairs up to a communal table,
Where we can feast in the knowledge of our shared dignity.

May God grant us the holy vision
To see in every human being a sacred mystery,
And may we love each mystery not abstractly, but concretely.
Just as Thomas touched the wounds of Jesus,
May we be unafraid to touch the wounds of our suffering neighbor.
May we lay down our arms and offer our outstretched hands,
Until there is no “them,” but only “us,”
Until we are, at last, sisters and brothers, all.
Amen.

Blessing

Gilmer

The blessing of God—the Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life—bless you and keep
you always. Amen.

Postlude

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Sleeth

*Liturgists: Neil Hough
Eileen Gilmer*

*Keyboard: Diane Pelak
Hammered Dulcimer: Jody Marshall
Editor: Catherine Wethington*



TRINITY United Methodist Church

1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard • McLean, Virginia 22101

UMTRINITY.ORG

INFO@UMTRINITY.ORG