

Something
New

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

5th Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community
called by a challenging and progressive faith
to live lives of love and justice

Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

Participant ID (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**
Meeting Password: **760760**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

COURAGE IN THE SHADOWS

With Music

There is a Balm in Gilead

African American Spiritual
Arr Stephen DeCesare

With Meditation

*“Only the love that flows from the heart of Christ can heal.
Only He in whom that love flows, even as the sap in the tree or
the blood in the body, can restore the wounded soul.”*

Ellen G. White

*Please stand in body or spirit

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

Opening Prayer

(adapted) Ministry Matters

When all we have yearned for and trusted in has let us down;

We come before our God this day, bringing all the pain we feel.

When the world seems dark and despair threatens to close in upon us;

We come before our God this day, bringing all our confusion and doubts.

Lord, gather us close and bring to us healing and hope.

Restore our strength and renew our vision of life. Amen.

*HYMN

There is a Balm in Gilead #553

(see insert)

*SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We share “happenings” in the community, and lift up concerns for prayer.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES

Reading from the Psalms
Reading from the Prophet

Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:16-21

Sermon

Restored

Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO COMMUNION

Hymn *When God Restored Our Common Life* (see insert)

Living Psalm #126

(adapted) UCC.org

Holy God,

Open our mouths to teach songs of joy
in places of sorrow;
our tongues to bring laughter
to children who rarely clap their hands.

**Open our listening to the tears
of those most vulnerable,
those whose fortunes are not restored,
who have terrible things happen
while we are content
to live as those within our own dream.**

Then open within us, God of Joy,
a pocket of the heart
in which we carry seeds of our harvests —

**from this worship, from our Lenten journey,
from holy justice
and human compassion —
to plant in the lives of others.**

CONSECRATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE PARTAKE

(an offering plate is available by the door in the Narthex or you may mail your gift)

Evening Arioso

James Michael Stevens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

* HYMN

Be Now My Vision #451
vss. 1, 2, 3

(see insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Trad Irish Melody

SLANE

Arr Brenda Portman

We welcome the return of our friend, **Melissa Bach**, who will greatly enhance our worship with her cello. Thank you for joining us again!

WELCOME!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity during this Lenten journey. If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. We hope you find this a welcoming community for people of all ages and stages of life.

If you have any questions about the church, feel free to ask the Pastor!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

847-722-6756

PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Acting Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

Guest Musician

Melissa Bach, cello

Acting Office Manager

Heather Hughes

Lay Officers

Council President

Treasurer

Church Email

Church Office Telephone

Church Office Hours

Church Website

Scott Peterson

Karen Kerschke

tuccdf@gmail.com

847-945-5050

Tue.-Wed. 9-12

trinitydeerfield.org

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Harriet Dart, who fell and fractured her femur

Peter & Barbie Reynolds, friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who were captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan

Condolences to Sarah & Heather Hughes on the passing of their sister Jackie Graber
Bill and Roseann Stenzel

Kevin Keckler as he recovers from surgery

Marge Magnani

For the Family and Friends of Rev. Bonnie Condon, who passed into eternity

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Skip Hahn

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents
in Puerto Rico

Rev. Bonnie Haase

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

For all whose lives have been torn apart by natural disasters around the globe

All those impacted by wildfires

***Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

April 6, 2025

Isaiah 45:16-21

Something New

If someone asked who your favorite prophet was, who would you say? Would it be “the weeping prophet” Jeremiah? Or maybe Hosea? He displayed the redeeming love of God by marrying a prostitute, repeatedly taking her back after many attempts to return to her former vocation. Perhaps it would be Micah, who spoke of a Shepherd King who would lead God’s children. What about Isaiah?

Often referred to as the prophet of Advent, Isaiah makes a rare Lenten appearance with his reminder that God is one who makes all things new — starting with creation, then with the foretold birth of a Mighty Counselor — Jesus — whose death and resurrection opened a path of new beginnings for us.

Hearing Isaiah speak to us in the season of Lent is our invitation to a holy reset. And we love resets, don’t we? The internet is full of promises that by following this plan or that we will have more energy, restful sleep, perhaps even a smaller waistline. We will be better than ever.

Isaiah’s Lenten reset, though, doesn’t involve gimmicks or empty promises. His reset is simply this: Remember once again that God is God and there is no other. That is all we need to bring focus back to our confusing and chaotic days where our Good Friday crosses forever loom on the horizon.

For just as Isaiah says in today’s passage, God had no intention for Jacob’s descendants to seek the Lord in vain. Rather, they would seek AND find. So it is for us today. Seeking the Lord is never an exercise in futility.

There’s been a lot of news lately about the mental health epidemic plaguing all ages. For the young, social media has ironically created a sense of isolation. For the elderly, loss of loved ones and no strong family network are fueling loneliness. Even those who have social supports in place are experiencing an emptiness inside.

Perhaps you or someone you know is experiencing a soul-crushing emptiness right now? If so, take heart. Your Lenten reset is here. Seek the Lord and you will find. For God who made the earth, did not create it to be empty. There is so much glory to take in and beauty for our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to embrace.

We were not created to be a shell of ourselves. Now is the time for our Lenten reset that leads to a full and fulfilled life.

God of great grace, may we remember that You sent Your Son Jesus to us so that we could have life abundant. Fill our hearts with this knowledge as we seek to love and serve You now and forever. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.



There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43**African-American spiritual; alt.**Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

Last time, end

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

to Refrain

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain
African-American spiritual

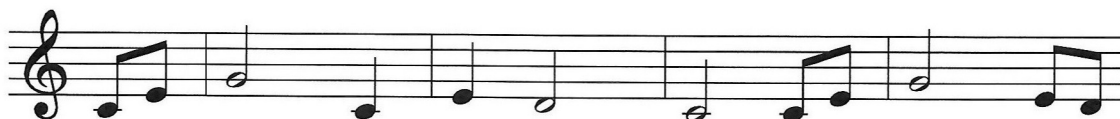
WHEN GOD RESTORED OUR COMMON LIFE

Psalm 126
Ruth Duck

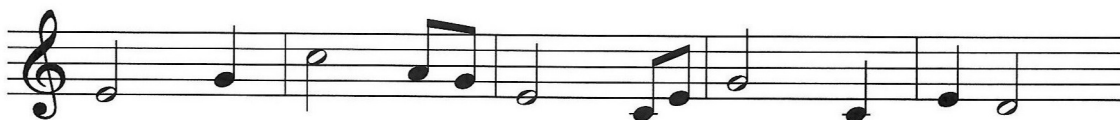
RESIGNATION
Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835



1. When God re - stored our com - mon life,
2. We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds
3. Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray



our hope, our lib - er - ty, at first it
in hard, un - yield - ing soil. With laugh - ing
for all who are op - pressed. May those who



seemed a pas - sing dream, a wak - ing fant-as -
hearts we car - ry home the fruit of all our
long for what is right with jus - tice now be



y. A shock of joy swept o - ver us, for
toil. We praise the One who gave the growth, with
blessed. We pray for those who mourn this day, and



we had wept so long; the seeds we wa - tered
voic - es full and strong. The seeds we wa - tered
all who suf - fer wrong; may seeds they wa - ter



once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
now with tears spring up in - to a song.

Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

Unison



1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

*Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
Traditional Irish melody
Harm. David Evans, 1927*