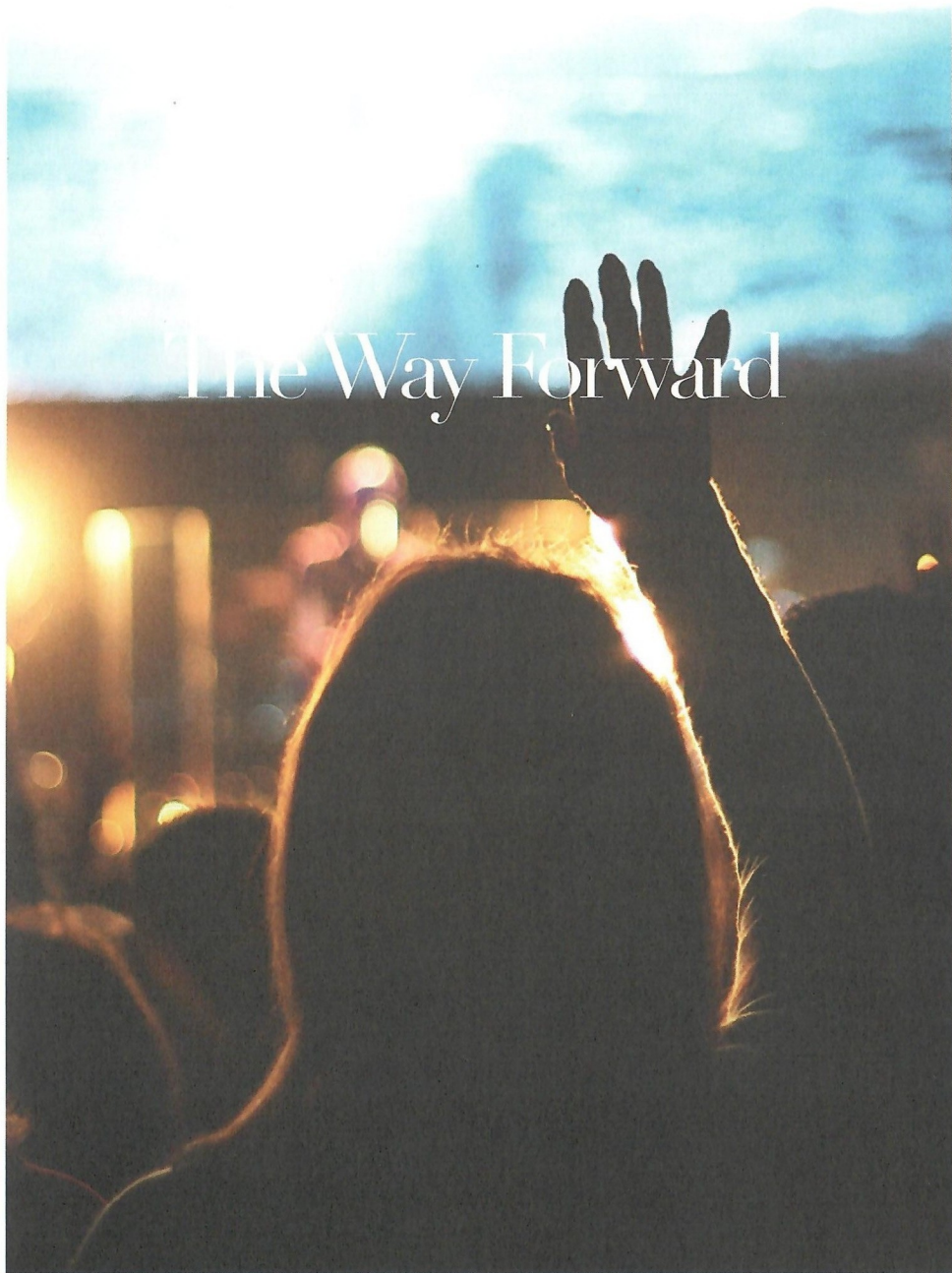


# The Way Forward



# Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

3rd Sunday in Easter

May 4, 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**

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## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

### SPRING WORSHIP SERIES

### NEW WINDS

With Music

*In Christ Alone*

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend  
Arr Marianne Kim

With Meditation

*“Illness of mind, body, or spirit can sap us of our life passion and energy. Sometimes illness can change the course of our lives forever, asking us to adapt in ways we never imagined. And while hardship is not visited upon anyone by God’s design, sometimes limitations open our eyes to other possibilities. We will look for a different perspective on how we deal with any life-altering situation.”*

*Marcia McFee*

\*Please stand in body or spirit

# INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds  
(adapted) Marcia McFee

The disciples returned to the Sea of Galilee, a place where they had spent much time in ministry with Jesus, when he appeared to them again by the shore.

**When we struggle or face an uncertain future, we sometimes seek familiar places, geographies of the heart, places that offer us a sense of being well.**

Simon Peter said to the disciples gathered with him: “I’m going fishing.” The disciples eagerly joined him in the boat, but they fished all night and caught nothing.

**Even when our lives have been altered and our paths have changed, setbacks can tempt us to try to go back to the way things were before.**

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not recognize him. Jesus said, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” The disciples said, “No.”

**Regardless of how futile our old ways were, we try them again, finding false comfort in the familiar, yet not truly finding the healing we seek.**

Jesus told the disciples to cast their net on the other side of the boat. They followed his direction and caught so many fish they were unable to haul in the net.

**We can become so overwhelmed with struggles that we forget to let go of our frustrations in order to seek new ways of being, new paths to peace.**

Amid the flopping fish, the disciple whom Jesus loved recognized him,  
saying, “It is the Lord.” Peter jumped into the sea – rushing to Jesus.  
**When we embrace new ways of being in the midst of life-changing  
circumstances, we often are filled with hope.**

The other disciples, seeing that they were not far from land,  
used the boat to drag the bulging nets ashore.  
**When faced with permanent obstacles, rather than repeat what  
once worked, we can shift our perspective  
to other ways of well-being.**

*Leader:* This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.  
***All: Thanks be to the Living Word.***

*– based on John 21:1-8*

\*HYMN

*Christ the Lord*  
vss. 1-2

(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 Acts of the Apostles

Acts 9:1-20

Reading from the Gospel

John 21:1-19

Sermon

*Truth Revealed*

Rev. Edmonds

Hymn of Response

*Let Us Break Bread Together #330*

(see insert)

## CALL TO OUR COMMON TABLE

(adapted) Marcia McFee

This is an open invitation to come  
and receive the bread that will sustain us  
as we embark on a journey towards our own resurrection story.

**All are invited to receive the sweetness of the cup  
as a sign of God's promise of abundant possibilities.  
We are invited to this meal, for all are forgiven their past regrets  
and invited into God's new future!**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Creator and Renewer of all life.  
Time and again you seek us out,  
breathing again the breath of life into the deflated places of our lives.

**And so,  
we come to your table again to praise you  
and taste yet again what your steadfast love can do...**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him  
to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.

**You healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.  
All this spoke of the resurrection of lives even before your own.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## CONSECRATION

## MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE EAT TOGETHER

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

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

Trad Folk Song  
Arr Mark Hayes

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

**By your Spirit you have made us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**

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

*I Love to Tell the Story*

(tune #522)

**The Savior of our stories  
has brought his peace to you;  
now go and tell the story,  
for others need it too.  
To ev'ry one who's hurting  
ring out the gospel call;  
proclaim that Christ is risen  
and grants his peace to all.**

Refrain 2x

**I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*I Love to Tell the Story*

William G. Fischer  
Arr Mary McDonald

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## WELCOME!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity during this Easter Season. 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!

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## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

May 4, 2025

Acts 9: 1-6, (7-20)

### The Way Forward

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus taught that "the only constant thing in life is change." Who can argue with that? Afterall, who hasn't had their world suddenly turned upside down?

As unsettling — and unwelcomed — as these life-changing events are, they are often the pivotal moments that move us forward in directions we never would have imagined going.

So it was for Saul of Tarsus. The noted persecutor of Christians, who searched them out relentlessly and punished them mercilessly, was on one such trip when he suddenly heard a voice from the heaven. "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" The voice was that of Jesus. Saul was then blinded where, for three days, he sat in darkness, fasting and praying.

During this time, Ananias of Damascus, a follower of Jesus, received a vision to heal Saul. Given Saul's reputation, it's understandably that Ananias was not keen on doing that. But he did as he was told. Saul regained his sight, but even more importantly he was healed from his spiritual blindness.

And in true biblically tradition, once someone's life is changed forever by the grace of God (remember Abram became Abraham, Sarai become Sara), Saul became Paul. He would then go on and become one of the most influential spokespersons of the Jesus way.

It's always good for us to revisit Paul's backstory because his conversion gives us an amazing hope that change is possible. His story reveals the boundless mercy of God who isn't turned off by our shadow selves. Paul shows us that with God no one is beyond the Divine One's loving reach. There's always a way forward.

Many times, though, we get stuck in the muck of a past that we believe defines our present. We let the heavy chains of grievous mistakes and hurts hold us captive from a future full of hope. But if someone like Saul can be redeemed, so can we all.

Yes, one day we are going about our business and the next we find ourselves startled by just how Jesus Christ enters our hearts, changing everything we ever knew and setting us on a new way forward. May it be so.

*God of grace and mercy, enter our hearts this day, forgive our mistakes, remove our guilt and set us free to move forward on paths that shine with Your divine light. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

## 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

### 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**

The Family of Adrienne Mazura, friend of Lucy, who succumbed to breast cancer

Rev. Bonnie Haase, finally at peace

Rev. Harriet Dart, who fell and fractured her femur

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

Bill and Roseann Stenzel

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

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.**

# CHRIST THE LORD

Sarah Hart



1. Dark - ness hangs, the world is ach - ing, Yearn - ing for the
2. As we wait with hope for res - cue Love de - scends and
3. Part - ing clouds re - veal his won - der: Might - y King in
4. On us now the Son is shin - ing, Lift - ing us to



1. com - ing light. In his ris - ing, hope a - wak - ing,
2. all is well. Proph - ets tell, "Your God is with us.
3. vic - to - ry. Trem - bling earth and roll - ing thun - der,
4. his em - brace. Shame is cursed, no more con - found - ing;



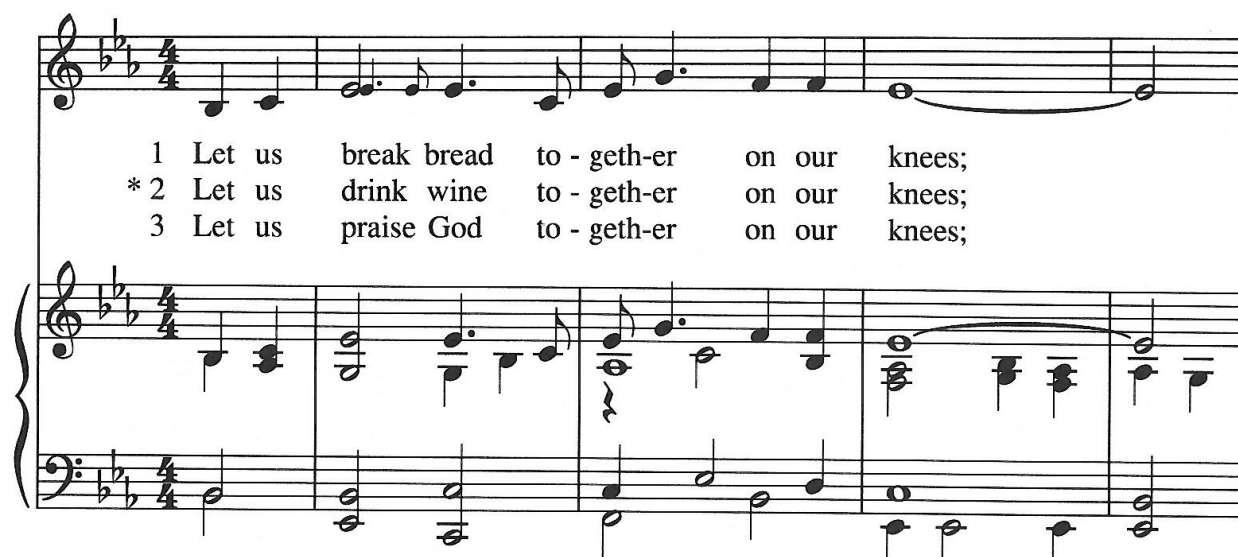
1. Love has come to steal the night. In our hearts true east we're
2. Heav - en's gift, Em - ma - nu - el." He is here, but hid as
3. Blaz - ing sun and quak - ing sea. Now he comes, our King, in
4. Lift your head and know his face. Love in - car - nate, breath in -



1. fac - ing, Toward the com - ing of our Lord. Morn - ing ris - ing,
2. low - ly In the poor and mys - ter - y. Where the bread and
3. glo - ry; Saints re - joice and dark - ness flees. Ris - ing rays of
4. dwell - ing, Now in truth is truth made known. We are his and



1. gloom now flee - ing; Christ re - turned! His word is true!
2. wine are of - fered He is here: our God and King.
3. light his char - iot, Christ the Lord has made us free.
4. he for - ev - er Is our God and he a - lone.



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 \* 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

\* "Share the cup" may be substituted for "drink wine."

*The earliest version of this spiritual probably began with the current stanza three, and was a song some of the enslaved in Virginia used when gathering for secret meetings. The communion stanzas were added some time after the Civil War.*

Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD  
 10.10. with refrain  
 Harm. David Hurd, 1983

# HOLY COMMUNION

1-2 3

My God, have mer-cy on me.

1-2 3