TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 15, 2026

GATHERING AND PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed!

PRELUDE: "Praise and Thanksgiving" *David Paxton*

Readying Our Hearts (A time of silent prayer and reflection in preparation for worshiping God together.)

Scripture for Reflection and Memorization: Hebrews 11:1, 6

"Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 43:19-21)

Leader: Let us worship God, Who has done great things.
People: We rejoice in our God, Who made a way through the desert of this world.
Leader: Let us worship God, Who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.
People: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship Him, and we rejoice!
Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
People: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

PRAYER OF ADORATION/INVOCATION

*GATHERING SONG: "Rock of Ages" *Rita Baloche*
Acoustic Worship Team

There is no rock, there is no god like our God,
No other name worthy of all our praise.
The Rock of Salvation that cannot be moved,
He's proven Himself to be faithful and true.
There is no rock, there is no god like ours. (repeat)

Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.
Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.
Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.
There is no rock, there is no God like ours.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (Pew Bible pp. 1886-1887)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith -- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire -- may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Leader: This is the word of the LORD.
People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison prayer after a time of silent personal confession.)

Most merciful God, death is our destiny apart from You. But by Your grace You have given us new life. Yet, we struggle daily with impurity, for we dishonor You and our fellow human beings daily by the sinful things we say, think, and do, and by leaving undone the good You command of us. Left to ourselves we could never merit new life in the Kingdom of Heaven. And so we call to You that, out of the depths of Your perfect grace, You would forgive us for the sins we have committed against You and against one another. Wash us clean so that our rags of sin might again be transformed into white robes of righteousness through Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (adapted from Eph 1: 4-8)

Leader: God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will -- to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He has lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. Know therefore, that through faith in Christ Jesus you are forgiven of the guilt of your sins, and receive God's peace.

***All:** (*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.

ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: James 2:14-26 (Pew Bible pp. 1882-1883)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that -- and shudder.

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Leader: This is the word of the LORD.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "Fear Not" *Karen Marrolli*
Choir

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 11:1-6 (Pew Bible pp. 1874-1875)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Leader: This is the word of the LORD.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "First Theological Virtue – Faith: The Fountainhead of the Virtues"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD THROUGH AFFIRMATION, OFFERING, AND PRAYER

*SONG OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE #413 "When Our Confidence Is Shaken"

When our confidence is shaken in beliefs we thought secure,
When the spirit in its sickness seeks but cannot find a cure,
God is active in the tensions of a faith not yet mature,
Of a faith not yet mature.

Solar systems, void of meaning, freeze the spirit into stone;
Always our researches lead us to the ultimate unknown.
Faith must die, or come full circle to its source in God alone,
To its source in God alone.

In the discipline of praying, when it's hardest to believe;
In the drudgery of caring, when it's not enough to grieve;
Faith maturing, learns acceptance of the insights we receive,
Of the insights we receive.

God is love, and thus redeems us in the Christ we crucify;
This is God's eternal answer to the world's eternal why.
May we in this faith maturing be content to live and die,
Be content to live and die!

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND OFFERING

Invitation

Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed

(The first official doctrinal statement of the whole Christian church (written in Greek), it developed from the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, was later revised at the Council of Constantinople in A.D. 381, and was finally adopted at the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451. The form below is a contemporary English version.)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements and the Giving of Our Offering

"Jesus, You Are My Life" *Steve Fry*
Acoustic Worship Team

Verse 1
You are my life
Oh precious Christ.
You are to me
The pearl of greatest price

Pre-Chorus
My love for You will never die.
Jesus You are my life.

Chorus
I come to You;
I run to You.
There's no greater joy
Than knowing You

Verse 2
Oh holy fire,
Love's purest light,
Burn all desires till
You are my one delight.

Verse 3
Oh conquering King,
Conquer my heart
And make of me
A pleasing gift to God.

Ending
My love for You will never die.
Jesus You are my life.

(For those joining us in the Sanctuary this morning, you are invited, as you come forward to receive the Communion Elements, and as you feel so led, to place your offering in one of the plates up front. For those unable to be with us physically, you are encouraged to partake of the elements in your home at this time. Also, for those unable to join us in worship, we invite you to set aside your offering as an act of personal dedication at this time, either to be mailed in, dropped off at the church, or brought in when you are able to join us in worship. Let this time be one of receiving from and offering yourself to our Lord -- to the praise of His glory.)

Prayer of Self-Commitment and Dedication of Offering

*Sung Response (Doxology)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER OF INTERCESSION/SUPPLICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BRINGING OUR WORSHIP INTO OUR WORLD

*SENDING SONG: #442 "`Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word,
Just to rest upon His promise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain:
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood! (Refrain)

Yes, `tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace. (Refrain)

I'm so glad I learned to trust You, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend,
And I know that You are with me, will be with me to the end. (Refrain)

*BENEDICTION: (Ephesians 3:16-19)

May God, out of His glorious riches, strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And may you, being rooted and established in love, have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge -- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE: "The Power and the Glory" *Roy Nollte*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Note: Church's email address – **office@trinitychurchtroy.org**. Website address – **www.trinitychurchtroy.org**.)

1. If you would like to help support the work of Hope 7 in our local community, we encourage you to drop off **non-perishable food items, toiletries and other hygiene items** either at Trinity Church, or at Hope 7 directly (M-F 9:30-11:45), or call Sue Laz (518-892-4042) to arrange for a pick-up.

2. **We are receiving new or gently used clothes for the Capital City Rescue Mission** (CCRM). There is a box in the narthex for donations. You may bring your items to the church or call Sue Laz to arrange for a pick-up.

3. **Church "business-style" cards** are available in the narthex. You are encouraged to take some to hand out as you invite others to join us in worship.

4. **Sunday morning prayer, 8:30-9:00am** in the Prayer Room/Library. Join us as we pray for Sunday's worship as well as other needs, concerns, praises, and thanksgivings.

5. **Adult Sunday morning study** meets before worship (9:15-10:00am). We are currently studying the topic of World Religions using the book "World Religions and Cults" by Bickel and Jantz. All are encouraged to join us. **(Please note that there will be no Wednesday Evening Zoom Bible studies until the New Year since we'll be doing a topical sermon series through December on the three Theological and four Cardinal Virtues.)**

6. **Church Directory**, copies of the updated church directory are available in the narthex.

7. **Pledges for the 2027 Ministry Year were due last Sunday.** If you have not returned your pledge sheet please do so today (11/15), even if you have chosen not to pledge for 2027 so our Stewardship Committee can account for all pledge sheets sent out and plan appropriately for our 2027 Budget. Thank you.

8. **Free copies of the Upper Room (Nov/Dec edition)** are in the literature racks located by the sanctuary and side door entrances of the church.

9. **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox(es) due today.** If you forgot to bring it (them) or have yet to complete assembling it (them), please speak with Peter Laz and arrange a time to get it (them) to him as soon as allowable.

10. We will hold a **clothing giveaway on December 12th from 9-12**. This is a great time to interact with families in our community and fill a need they have, and hopefully have opportunity to share our faith with them and invite them to worship with us. If you can help with setup Friday morning (12/11) and/or Saturday during the event please speak with Sue Laz.