

TRINITY CHURCH

— KIRKWOOD —

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

November 7, 2021

WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO MEETS US IN OUR BROKENNESS

Liturgist: Matt Pannkuk

Scripture Reader: Peg Nichols

Pastoral Prayer: Steve O'Neal, Ruling Elder

Quotes and Reflections

"Love is said to make the world go round, and romantic love certainly makes the culture go round in terms of advertising and entertainment. We never seem to tire of stories that focus on romance. But we're not referring to romantic love when we speak of the Christian virtue of love. We're talking about a much deeper dimension of love, a virtue so paramount that it is to distinguish Christians from all other people." — R.C. Sproul, Ligonier

"Love, having become a god, becomes a demon." — C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

"Love Is Not Always Love: Why Feelings Must Bow Before God " by Sam Allberry

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/love-is-not-always-love>

The song "All You Need Is Love" was released in the summer of 1967 and quickly became one of the Beatles' biggest hits. But for many people, it's not just a great song — it's a great philosophy. We see it on T-shirts, posters, and placards. In a world of competing creeds and beliefs, surely, they say, we can all get behind this. Let's just love one another and not make it more complicated than that.

But the fact is, much of the time it is more complicated than that. "All you need is love" only works as an idea if we all have a shared understanding of what love is and should look like. Most of the time, we don't.

When we stop and think about it, we're actually quite confused about love. We know enough to know that it matters. We sense it is what life should be about, and that we can't really live without it. But we find it surprisingly hard to pin down precisely what love is. We know we need it; we just struggle to articulate what "it" actually is.

How We Know Love

This matters profoundly. We base a lot of ideology, politics, and personal ethics on the

assumption that a given course of action is loving. We use hashtags like #LovesLove and #LoveWins as though they settle the matter and we all know what we're talking about. So if we don't really know as much about love as we think we do, then some of our conclusions about love are not as firm as we think they are. Love is not as straightforward as we tend to think.

The New Testament assumes this when it tells us, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us" (1 John 3:16 NIV).

Notice what is implied: apart from the coming of Christ, we can't fully know what love is. Our grasp of it will be incomplete at best. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that most clearly shows us what love is. John goes on to ground this, famously, in three monosyllables: not *Love is love*, but *God is love* (1 John 4:8, 16).

Counterfeit Feelings

Unless our understanding of love is grounded in the person and work of God himself, whatever form of love we think will be left to guide us will turn out to be empty, hollow and — ultimately — counterfeit. C.S. Lewis once wrote that love "begins to be a demon the moment he begins to be a god." He explains,

Every human love, at its height, has a tendency to claim for itself a divine authority. Its voice tends to sound as if it were the will of God himself. It tells us not to count the cost, it demands of us a total commitment, it attempts to over-ride all other claims and insinuates that any action which is sincerely done "for love's sake" is thereby lawful and even meritorious. (The Four Loves, 7–8)

"God is love" doesn't mean that God must approve of everything I think is love. It is very easy for us to mistake all sorts of intense and even harmful feelings for love. Instead, "God is love" means that God knows far more about love than we do, and that we must therefore listen to him if we are to love each other as we truly should and in the right way.

Love's Different Faces

Most of us recognize that different contexts call for different types of love. Consider these statements: I love my mother. I love my spouse. I love my dog. I love burgers.

Each statement uses the same word, but we instinctively understand it in different ways appropriate to its object. Each is a love, but the loves are different. In fact, we would say they are *necessarily* different. Love for a spouse should look very different from love for a parent. And love for a parent should look very different from love for a pet. We know this. And people who don't tend to grasp this end up being the subject of documentaries. There are different forms of love, and loving well in any given situation involves ordering those loves appropriately.

There are times this is obvious to us. We might sense that one form of love is straying into another, less appropriate form. What is meant only to be a friendship starts to cross over into something romantic. Or we sense that we are becoming too dependent on a parent in a way that's unhealthy. Or we see someone trying to have "human" companionship with a pet. It's why we need God's help. He will show us what love should look like in each context.

Better Love Than Before

What God shows us will always be more loving than any alternative we might come up with. Obedience to him will never mean we end up loving people less. We might feel like that in some cases, but that is probably because we are wanting to love someone in the wrong kind of way, and God isn't so much calling us to love them less than he is calling us to love them differently, which will really mean loving them better.

I recently met with two women who had been a lesbian couple before coming to Christ. They have an unusual story in that they both came to Christ and now are close Christian friends in the same church. A relationship that had been the occasion for, and expression of, rebellion against God has now, in an extraordinary turn, become a means by which both are being encouraged toward greater godliness. One of them told me, "Our friendship is far richer now that we're sisters in Christ than it ever was when we were living in sin."

The point is not that their story is typical or normative, but their testimony is revealing: turning from an unbiblical relationship to Christ is not turning from more love to less love, but from improper love to better love. We can never truly love someone more by disobeying the God who is love.

We can only say "All you need is love" when it is the love of God, shown in Christ, that we are talking about. *Love is love* may justify counterfeit love. *God is love* leads us into something far better.

Song of Preparation

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Trinity Hymnal #32 (vv. 1, 3)

Call to Worship—Psalm 146 (selected)

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: We will praise the Lord as long as we live.

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob.

People: Whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Words by James Montgomery. Music by Sandra McCracken (alt. S. McCracken)

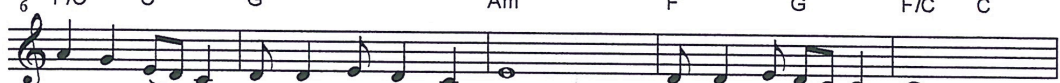
Chorus

F/C C F/C C F/C C Am G F/C C



Hail to the Lord's a - nointed great Da - vid's great-er Son! Hail in the


6 F/C C G Am F G F/C C



time ap - pointed, His reign on earth be - gun! His reign on earth be - gun!

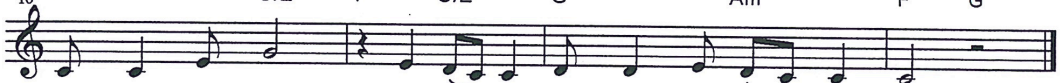
Verses

11 F/C C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm



1. He comes to break op - pres-sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2. He comes with com - fort speed-y to those who suf - fer wrong;
3. To give them songs for sigh-ing, their dark-ness turned to light,
4. He shall come down like show-ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
5. The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

16 F C/E F C/E G Am F G



to take a - way trans-gres-sion and rule in eq - ui - ty. (vss. 1, 3, 4, 5 to chorus)
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong.
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
love, joy, and hope, like flow-ers, spring in His path to birth.
his name shall stand for - ev - er, that name to us is Love.

Come, People of the Risen King

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

$\text{♩} = 112$

VERSE

B_\flat^2

$\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3) \text{B}_\flat^2/\text{D}$

$\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3) \text{B}_\flat^2/\text{D}$



1. Come peo - ple of the Ris - en King, who de - light to bring Him
(2. Come) those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing through the
(3. Come) young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wom - en of the

4 F $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3)$ B_\flat^2 $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3)$ Gm^7 $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3)$



praise; Come all, and tune your hearts to sing to the Morn - ing Star of
night; Come those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the
faith; Come those with full or emp - ty hands—find the rich - es of His

8 B_\flat^2 $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3)$ $\text{B}_\flat^2/\text{D}$ $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3) \text{B}_\flat^2/\text{D}$



grace. From the shift - ing shad - ows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to
fight. For His per - fect love will nev - er change, and His mer - cies nev - er
grace. O - ver all the world, His peo - ple sing—shore to shore we hear them

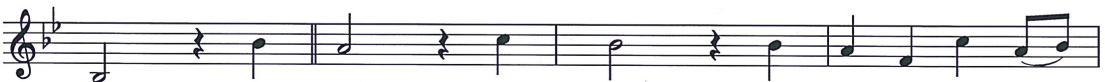
12 F $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3)$ B_\flat^2 $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3)$ Gm^7 $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3)$



Him, where stead - y arms of mer - cy reach, to — gath - er chil - dren
cease, but fol - low us through all our days, with the cer - tain hope of
call the truth that cries through ev - 'ry age, "Our — God is all in

CHORUS

16 B_\flat^2 F $\text{E}_\flat^2(\text{no}3)/\text{F}$ F



in. Re - joice, re - joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re -
peace. all."

20 E \flat 2(no3) B \flat 2/D F Gm7 E \flat 2(no3) B \flat 2/D Cm F^{sus} F

-joice! One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, re -

24 1, 2. B \flat 2

-joice!

2. Come
3. Come

28 3. B \flat 2 **CHORUS** F E \flat 2(no3)/F F

joice! Re - joice, re - joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re -

32 E \flat 2(no3) B \flat 2/D F Gm7 E \flat 2(no3) B \flat 2/D Cm F^{sus} F

-joice! One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ re -

36 B \flat 2

-joice! _____

*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading—Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever!

People: Thanks be to God!

WE CONFESS OUR UTTER UNWORTHINESS BEFORE GOD

Call to Confession—Ruth 1:1-5

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Ruth 4:13-15

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for His redeeming mercies!

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

People: And also with you!

*Song of Rejoicing

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren



What gift of grace is Je sus my Re - deem - er There is no
The night is dark, but I am not for - sak - en. for by my
No fate I dread, I know I am for - giv - en, the fu - ture
With ev - 'ry breath I long to fol - low Je - sus, for he has



more for heav - en now to give. He is my joy. my right-eous-ness and
side the Sav - ior, he will stay. I la - bor on in weak-ness and re -
sure, the price, it has been paid. For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my
said that he will bring me home. And day by day I know he will re -



free - dom, my stead-fast love, my deep and bound - less peace. To this I
joic - ing, for in my need, His pow - er is dis-played. To this I
par - don, and he was raised to o - ver-throw the grave. To this I
new me un - til I stand with joy be - fore the throne. To this I



hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus. For my life is whol - ly bound to
hold: my Shep-herd will de - fe - nd me, Through the deep - est val - ly he will
hold: my sin has been de - feat - ted. Je - sus now, and ev - er, is my
hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus. All the glo - ry ev - er - more to



his. _____ Oh how strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not
lead. _____ Oh the night has been won and I shall o - ver-come! Yet not
plea. _____ Oh the chains are re-leased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not
him. _____ When the race is com-plete, still my lips shall re - peat: Yet not



I, but through Christ in me.
I, but through Christ in me.
I, but through Christ in me.
I, but through Christ in me.

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(Children ages 4yr to 2nd grade may be excused for Children's Church)

Sermon

"Searching for Love in All the Wrong Places"

Genesis 29:31-33; 30:1-3, 9, 14-15, 22

Pablo Rosales

*Song of Response

Is He Worthy?

Words and Music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive

(Ensemble): Do you feel the world is broken? (Congregation): *We do*
(Ensemble): Do you feel the shadows deepen? (Congregation): *We do*
(Ensemble): But do you know that all the dark won't
stop the light from getting through? (Congregation): *We do*
(Ensemble): Do you wish that you could see it all made new?
(Congregation): *We do*

(Ensemble): Is all creation groaning? (Congregation): *It is*
(Ensemble): Is a new creation coming? (Congregation): *It is*
(Ensemble): Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst?
(Congregation): *It is*
(Ensemble): Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (Congregation): *It is*

(Chorus: All)
*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is.*

(Ensemble): Does the Father truly love us? (Congregation): *He does*
(Ensemble): Does the Spirit move among us? (Congregation): *He does*
(Ensemble): And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves?
(Congregation): *He does*
(Ensemble): Does our God intend to dwell again with us?
(Congregation): *He does*

(Chorus: All)
*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with His Son
Is He worthy, is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is.
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
He is. He is*

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

***Sursum Corda**

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the LORD our God.

People: It is good and right so to do.

***Confession of Faith**

Leader: Christian, in whom do you believe?

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right
hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He
shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen**

Words of Institution—Matthew 26:26—29

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Prayer of Consecration

The Giving of the Bread and Cup

** Upon direction from the ushers, please come forward down the center aisle, keeping six feet between you and the those in front of you. After you receive the elements, please return to your seats via the side aisles. Please hold the elements until we are all able to partake together. After the service, please dispose of your used communion cup.*

(Please note: Grape juice is in all the cups today)

Communion Song (Ensemble)

Beautiful Scandalous Night

Words and Music by Derald Daugherty and Steve Hindalong

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Sending Song

Mighty God We Thank and Praise You

Mighty God we thank and praise you for this meal, this Bread of Life;
Precious blood and body, broken, from your Son our Savior, Christ.
In these myst'ries you assure us we are members of your Son;
Heirs of your eternal Kingdom, with all faithful people, one.

Humbly now we ask you, Father, in your grace, to make us strong,
That, with all the saints before us, in good works we may press on!
Send us out to love and serve you! Send us out to sing your praise!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, pow'r and glory to your name!
Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

*Benediction

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday school classes for all ages meet today at 11am. Children Pre-K-2nd grade meet in the Pre-K/K room. Grades 3rd-5th meet in the 3-5th classroom.

Sign up for a Small Group! Sign up sheets are in the Narthex or go to groups in Church Center.

Interested in becoming a member of Trinity? Join us for our new members Sunday school class, Trinity Connect, in the fireplace room.

Men's Bible Study: The men will have the option of attending on Wed. evenings at 6pm or Friday mornings at 6:30am. Pastor Polski is leading a study on the Book of Acts.

Women's Bible Studies: We offer two options- Two Tues. a month a group meets at Melissa Jorgensen's home at 7pm to discuss the Sermon on the Mount (11/9). On Wednesdays we meet at Trinity for a study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians either at 9am or 6pm.

Volunteers are needed for the Christmas Craft Party! There are many ways you can help (you do NOT need to be crafty). Sign up sheets for volunteer opportunities are on the round table in the narthex. See Jason Van Deraa or Amy Mitchell with any questions.

Save the Date: Our **Service of Thanksgiving** will be on Wednesday, Nov. 24th at 5:30pm. Join us to **decorate for Advent and Christmas Sat., Nov. 27th** at 9am. Trinity's annual **Christmas Concert** will be on Sunday, Dec. 19th at 6:30pm.

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.

There are **several easy ways to serve at Trinity**. Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators to get involved: **Ushers:** Paul Schaffer (PaulSchaffer1012@gmail.com), **Children's Church:** Melissa Kocher (medcalf.melissa@gmail.com), **Greeters:** Elisa Tharp (elisa.f.tharp@gmail.com), **Nursery:** Sarah Oehlerking, Deborah Moen, Alyssa Hall, and Ruth Harlow (nursery@trinitystlouis.org).

Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, church directory, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.

You can **sign up for all upcoming events** by scanning your phone camera over the QR code and then [following the link](#):



CHRISTMAS CRAFT PARTY

Our Christmas Craft Party will take place on Sat., Dec. 4th from 9am to 12:15pm. Children ages 4yrs thru 5th grade will make gifts, sing Christmas Carols, hear a story by Pastor Polski, and enjoy lunch. Registration is limited and will close once full. **Sign up will TODAY.** Scan the QR code above.

WELCOME

We are glad you could join us! We would love to connect with you and answer any questions you may have about Trinity. Scan below with your phone camera to leave us your contact information.



Trinity's ministries are organized around the core values in our purpose statement which reads: Trinity Church exists to **exalt** God's name, **establish** God's people, **equip** God's church and **engage** God's world, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake of the Risen King, Jesus Christ.

314-821-7311 | info@trinitystlouis.org

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