

## MEDITATIONS

But this I know. Those who seek him will do well to look among the poor and the lowly, the sorrowful and the oppressed.

~Henry van Dyke, *The Other Wise Man*

In this and every season  
may we see them,  
the wise ones  
who come bearing  
your gifts to us.

They cloak themselves in garb  
that rarely draws attention,  
but they are there  
at the edge of the shadows,  
in the margins of our days,  
on the threshold of our awareness,  
offering what we most need.

Give us eyes to see them now,  
before they have left  
to go home some other way,  
before we glimpse  
their departing shadows  
edged in gold  
and smell their spiced perfume  
lingering behind them  
in the air.

~Jan L. Richardson

A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The was deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.

~T.S. Eliot, *The Journey of the Magi*

## staff

people of the congregation –  
community ministers

cy albertson –  
accompanist  
tim brace –  
music and arts director  
sid hall –  
minister of celebration

elyse jensen –  
teacher  
larry roberts –  
weekend sexton

## a people with a mission

trinity united methodist church is a dynamic community of people who, through their trust in god's faithfulness, strive to provide an inclusive, joyful, loving, and caring environment. in this community, people can find spiritual nurture and growth, mutual support of individual needs, and a sense of family. reaching out through vital and creative worship, people-centered programs, and social and environmental stewardship, this congregation serves the local and global communities.

## a people committed to inclusiveness

trinity is a congregation that welcomes and affirms all people inclusive of race, nationality, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, physical ability, mental ability, economic class, or educational level. trinity has been a reconciling congregation since 1992.

## a creation-centered community

trinity supports **creation spirituality**, a movement that draws on ancient spiritual traditions and contemporary science to awaken authentic mysticism, revitalize christianity and western culture, and promote social and ecological justice.

## contact us

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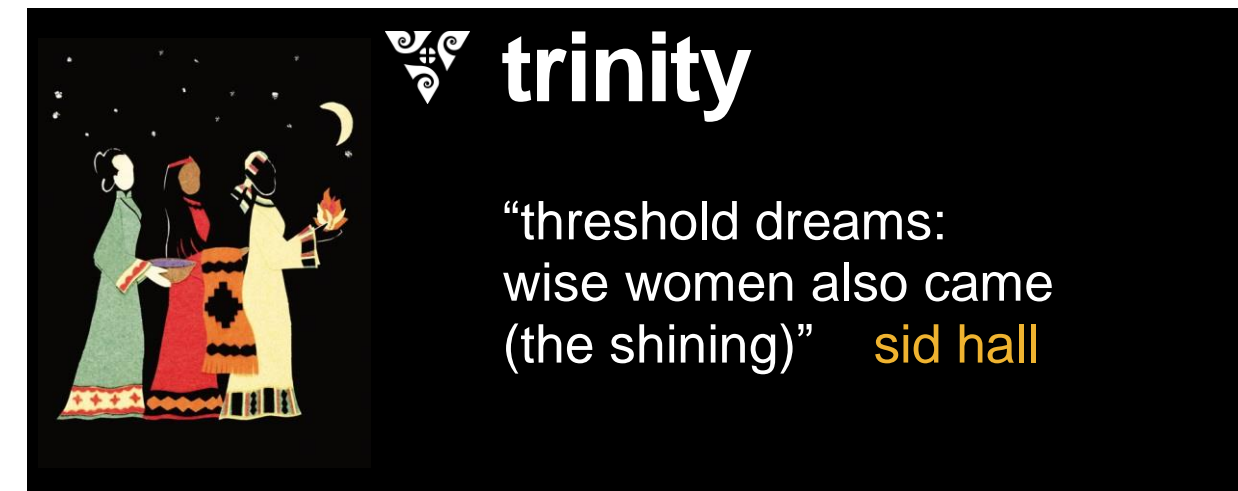
**The Power of Myth For Our Life and Spirituality:  
A Winter Sermon Series by Sid Hall**

In the early 1980s, I found myself in an unprecedented (for me) crisis of faith. I no longer felt that my long-held, conventional beliefs were tenable. Was this the time to step away from seminary, faith in general, and Christianity in particular? After confiding in my professor of Jewish Studies, Rabbi Jack Bemporad, he suggested that I explore the world of myth and archetypes before I abandon my faith altogether. The books he recommended were C. G. Jung's *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*; Mircea Eliade's *The Sacred and the Profane*; and Joseph Campbell's *Myths to Live By*. The ideas in these texts changed my life and my understanding of spirituality. And, I stayed the course of seminary, faith, and Christianity—but differently than before.

Shortly after arriving at Trinity in 1988, I learned that Joseph Campbell, who had died the year before, had collaborated with Bill Moyers and Austin's Betty Sue Flowers, in a new PBS series, "The Power of Myth." In the fall of 1988, Betty Sue presented an 8-evening preview of the series for the Austin community before its premier on PBS. Mary Uherek from Trinity attended the series with me. Since then, "The Power of Myth" has become one of the most popular PBS series ever to appear on television. Campbell had struck a chord.

For 9 weeks this winter, I will explore Campbell's themes and conclude with one of my own in relation to our spiritual journeys. I will bring into each sermon a discussion of biblical myths, as well as other mythological frameworks, to unpack each theme. The Sunday themes are:

**January 11: Myth and the Modern World // January 18: The Journey Inward**  
**January 25: The First Storytellers // February 1: Sacrifice and Bliss**  
**February 8: The Hero's Adventure // February 15: The Gift of the Goddess**  
**February 22: Tales of Love and Marriage // March 1: Masks of Eternity**  
**March 8: Thinking Mythologically as a Christian**



“threshold dreams:  
wise women also came  
(the shining)” sid hall

1/4/15 order of service 10:30 – 11:45 am

## befriending creation

### song of preparation \*

“ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round”  
*african-american spiritual*

ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round,  
turn me 'round, turn me 'round.  
ain't gonna let nobody, turn me 'round.  
i'm gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-  
talkin',  
marchin' on to freedom land  
ain't gonna let no hatred turn me 'round,  
turn me 'round, turn me 'round.  
ain't gonna let no hatred, turn me 'round.  
i'm gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-  
talkin',  
marchin' on to freedom land  
ain't let injustice turn me 'round,  
turn me 'round, turn me 'round.  
ain't gonna let injustice turn me 'round,  
i'm gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-  
talkin'.  
marchin' on to freedom land  
i'm gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-  
talkin'.  
marchin' on to freedom land

### call to celebration \*

directions for new beginnings & new years  
adapted from warren throckmorton

### gathering song \*

“for the beauty of the earth” arr. rutter

for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of  
the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies, over and around  
us lies;

### chorus:

lord of all, to thee we raise this our  
joyful hymn of praise.

for the beauty of each hour, of the  
day and of the night  
hill and vale, and tree and flower  
sun and moon, and stars of light, sun  
and moon, and stars of light.

chorus x 2

### carol \*

“we three kings” hymnal #254

## befriending letting go

### call to prayer

“prayer is not asking. it is a longing  
of the soul. it is daily admission of  
one's weakness.... it is better in prayer  
to have a heart without words, than  
words without a heart.” ~gandhi

silent prayer

## befriending creativity

### trinity celebration choir

### readings

matthew 2:1-12;  
“wise women also came”  
by jan richardson

### message

“threshold dreams: wise women also  
came (the shining)” by sid hall

### new year's communion (insert)

**note:** please turn off or silence your phones.



# update



**America's Sunday Supper & Peace Through Pie Social, Sunday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Trinity is combining its ongoing “Dignity, Diversity, and Dialogue” series – guided discussions on racial dynamics and how to combat racism and other forms of systemic discrimination in our community – with the annual America's Sunday Supper and Peace Through Pie Social. Join us on Sunday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm for “Sincere Ignorance and Conscientious Stupidity: A Conversation on Race, Privilege, and Power.” The theme for this year's event is taken directly from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous statement: “Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”

Returning facilitators Jeremy Solomons and Dr. Kazique Prince will create a safe space for dialogue and provide thought-provoking questions and activities.

This is a potluck Peace Through Pie Social – so bring a pie (savory or sweet) to share!



**A New Session of Wellsprings of Wisdom Starts Next Wednesday!** – Wellsprings of Wisdom (WOW) is a program designed to provide opportunities to explore, question, discuss, and grow. WOW is about fellowship, not fundraising. If you'd like to attend but are unable to pay the full amount, please talk with Sid.

We're offering 2 classes to choose from in this 1<sup>st</sup> Winter Session:

- ❖ “We Circle Around the Boundaries of the Earth: A Class on Creation Spirituality and the

Elements of Trinity Worship” by Sid Hall  
❖ “The Jesus Fatwah: Love Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself” by Russ Harper

This session runs from Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. More info can be found in the included flyer.



**MFSA Meets on Thursday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>** – The next meeting of the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, at St. John's UMC. The meeting will focus on MFSA's plans for legislation that may be introduced at the 2015 Rio Texas Annual Conference in Corpus Christi and at the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon. Jay Brim, the Rio Texas Conference Chancellor, will be present to discuss the process, schedule, and possible topics that may be addressed at Annual Conference. As a delegate to the 2016 General Conference, Jay will offer his insights on that meeting. Snacks and socializing start at 6:30 pm; the program begins at 7:00 pm. St. John's UMC is located at 2140 Allandale Road.

## order of service, cont.

### befriending compassion

#### song for centering

“of our mother's womb created”  
tune 11th c. latin; words by sid hall

of our mother's womb created, she that sings the earth to be she is birthing and sustaining, she the life, the wisdom, she of the things that weep, that yearn for, and that justice now shall keep evermore and evermore. amen.

#### offering of our gifts of money for nurture and justice

please place gifts on the offering table.

- wooden bowl:** regular offering
- basket:** special offering & coffee fund
- glass jar:** loose change

#### we go forth to celebrate

#### announcements

#### passing of the peace \*

you're invited to greet those around you by saying “peace be with you” or other words of welcome.

#### welcoming of the children song

(new words by debby loomis)

jesus loves the little children,  
all the children of the world,  
big or little, short or tall, jesus loves them one and all,  
jesus loves the little children of the world.

#### song of thanksgiving \*

“o holy darkness, source of light”  
(insert)

#### benediction \*

#### benedictory response \*

“trees of the field”  
adapted from isaiah 55:12

you shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field

will clap, will clap their hands.

and all the trees of the field will clap their hands, <clap clap>  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, <clap clap>  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, <clap clap>  
while you go out with joy. (repeat)

#### after the service

please help us undecorate after today's service. it's time to take down the tree, pack up the ornaments & wreath, and put away the lights. adios to christmas 2014.

the work goes a lot faster with every person who helps out. thanks for your assistance!



\* **standing as able**

## welcome!



it is a delight to have you share in this celebration. there are often people here for the first time, time, and we hope everyone feels welcome. a short introduction to trinity can be found on the back of this bulletin.

if you have a question, feel free to ask a staff person or someone near you who looks like they know what they are doing. they just might! you can learn more about trinity's mission and vision, or what it means to be a member of the church by contacting our pastor, dr. sid hall, at [sid@tumc.org](mailto:sid@tumc.org).

## visitors

if you are visiting trinity for the first time, would like to update your member information, or want to volunteer, please use one of our envelopes on the chair backs. you may leave the envelopes in the basket during the offertory. thank you!

## greetings

join sid by the north doors of the sanctuary for greetings after the celebration.

## better than the a-list...

you can get on our e-list at <http://bit.ly/1614whY>!

- **trinity news and events list:** subscribers currently receive a weekly update and special announcements.
- **children's corner and youth news lists:** subscribers will soon begin receiving periodic newsletters and announcements.

## envelopes

envelopes can be used to:

- provide or update your contact info;
- sign up for email updates or to volunteer;
- ensure your contribution goes to the correct fund and is credited to your giving statement.

simply put the envelope in an offering basket.

## parking

help us be good neighbors! please park across speedway in either of our two lots, or in on-street spaces around trinity. avoid the lot immediately to the east of our building, bus zones, the loading zone in the front, bike lanes, or anywhere reserved for other businesses/entities. thank you!

## special offering

### christmas offering

every year, trinity dedicates our christmas offering to united methodist apportionments—the worldwide ministries of social justice and compassion that impact people in ways no one person and no single church could do on their own. these ministries are consistent with the mission and values of trinity.



### fair trade coffee fund

just write “coffee fund” on your donation and place it in the special offering basket. your donation allows us to serve fair trade coffee on sundays and at other church events.

## we love our

### readers

- ♥ kelly hardin
- ♥ barb lighthouse

### counters

- ♥ alison bartley
- ♥ deb campbell

### greeters

- ♥ mary pratt
- ♥ leeann tacchi

### other volunteers

- ♥ emily albrecht: kitchen laundry
- ♥ kathleen davis: kitchen clean up
- ♥ jimmy alan hall: deposits
- ♥ sunday homeless task force
- ♥ leeann tacchi: sunday set-up assistance
- ♥ susie tacchi: kitchen laundry
- ♥ trey & linda: sanctuary clean up

“the time is always right to do what is right.”  
~dr. martin luther king, jr.