

MEDITATIONS

Myth and fairy-story must, as all art, reflect and contain in solution elements of moral and religious truth (or error), but not explicit, not in the known form of the primary “real” world.
~J. R. R. Tolkien

History shows us that the songs – the myth, the experience, and the emotion – live longer the less you explain.
~Sondre Lerche

People say that what we’re all seeking is a meaning for life. I don’t think that’s what we’re really seeking. I think that what we’re seeking is an experience of being alive, so that our life experiences on the purely physical plane will have resonances with our own innermost being and reality, so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive.
~Joseph Campbell

A myth is an image in terms of which we try to make sense of the world.
~Alan Watts

staff

people of the congregation –
community ministers

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

laura e. mcmorris –
business manager
larry roberts –
weekend sexton
shelley walters –
dir. of community life

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

trinity

“the power of myth for
our life and spirituality:
myth and the modern
world”
sid hall

1/11/15 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 *

adapted from george stuart
one: welcome! one thing is for certain. we
are all welcome. this is the jesus
way.
all: he called people to him; he
asked people to come to him;
he welcomed them; he got
cranky with his disciples when
they tried to prevent anyone,
anyone at all coming to him.

one: he ate with outcasts, those
despised; he befriended tax
collectors, those regarded as
thieves;
all: he encouraged children,
usually ignored in adult
community, to sit on his
knees; he had meals with
the elite and the riffraff;
he conversed publicly with
women although that was
taboo;
one: unlike the religious leaders of
his day, he sought the company
of all kinds and types of
people, to affirm them, to
challenge them, to call them to
an abundant way of life.
all: so we are all welcome. this
is the jesus way.

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

note: please turn off or silence your phones.

update



America’s Sunday Supper & Peace Through Pie Social, Sunday, Jan. 18th – 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. 18th from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm for “Sincere Ignorance and Conscientious Stupidity: A Conversation on Race, Privilege, and Power.”

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 This 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 1st 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. 14th through Feb. 11th. More info can be found in the included flyer.



Trinity Welcomes Our New Director of Community Life – At long last, we have someone to take over Amy’s old job while also adding the important elements of program design, development, and oversight. Starting on Monday, Shelley Walters will be sitting in the big office and managing the many aspects of Trinity’s community. Most recently, Shelley worked at St. John’s UMC as their Director of Student Ministries. She also has experience in children’s ministry, worship, and contemplative prayer. She even knows American Sign Language! Shelley’s currently a grad student at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and expects to earn her Master’s in Divinity in 2017.

She’s looking forward to being here next week for her official Sunday debut and to meeting her new Trinity family!

order of service, cont.

song *
“we are thankful for a greeting”
(insert)

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

after each sharing, the leader will say, “healing and joyful spirit...” and the people respond, “receive our prayer.”

prayer of jesus (together)

version by jean crane

our mother and father who dwells within – all in all/in you we live and move and have our being./wholeness is your name —/your kin-dom is here and now.

give us this day our daily bread —/and help us let go of all grievances — as we extend our love to others./lead us not into illusions of separation —/as you help us transcend our ego thoughts.

surround us with your healing light – for you are eternal truth and love. forever. amen.

befriending creativity

trinity celebration choir

readings

selections from genesis 2 – the second creation story;
joseph campbell in *the power of myth*

message

“the power of myth for our life and spirituality: myth & the modern world”
by sid hall

befriending compassion

song for centering

“spirit of life” by carolyn mcdade
spirit of life, come unto me. sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion, blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in

the hand, giving life the shape of justice. roots hold me close; wings set me free: spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

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

earth prayer

journey directions by christine kraemer

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 *

“mystery” (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)

* *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.

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

reconciling ministries network in africa

rmn is committed to creating change within the umc around the world for the sake of the livelihoods and integrity of lgbtq persons. recently, rmn has been working in the african nations of zimbabwe and the ivory coast to promote conversation and education in the area of progressive theology. rmn is building inclusive places of hope and peace for all of god’s children in the umc.



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

- ♥ deana henry
- ♥ marianne laguna

counters

- ♥ alison bartley
- ♥ kathleen davis

greeters

- ♥ aimee ayers
- ♥ mary pratt

other volunteers

- ♥ cold weather shelter
- ♥ krista gregory & ken owens: kitchen clean up
- ♥ jimmy alan hall: deposits
- ♥ austin hardin: kitchen clean up
- ♥ sunday homeless task force
- ♥ trey & linda: sanctuary clean up

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