

MEDITATIONS

What's different about the Gospel of Thomas is that, instead of focusing entirely on who Jesus is and the wonderful works of Jesus, it focuses on how you and I can find the kingdom of God, or life in the presence of God.

~Elaine Pagels

There is no place in my soul, no corner of my character, where God is not.

~Evelyn Underhill

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Loss brings pain. Yes. But pain triggers memory. And memory is a kind of new birth, within each of us. And it is that new birth after long pain, that resurrection – in memory – that, to our surprise, perhaps, comforts us.

~Sue Miller

Of fast running rivers
Of choice and chance
And time stops here on the delta
While they dance, while they dance

I love the child
Who steers this riverboat
Lately he's crazy
For the deep...

~David Crosby

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. mc Morris –
business administrator

erica molina –
teacher

larry roberts –
weekend sexton

aimee villaret –
children's teacher

shelley walters –
director 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 education 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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| FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|
| MARCH 2015 | | |
| Pledge contributions | \$17,790 | |
| Loose Plate | \$7,775 | |
| Special Offerings | | |
| Out Youth | \$476 | |
| CROP | \$228.61 | |
| TUMC Cold Weather Shelter | \$483.65 | |
| Hope Food Pantry | \$543.60 | |
| UMCOR | \$793.71 | |

“The Gospel of Thomas as a Doubters’ Guide to Living the Questions”

Sid’s 6-week sermon series on the Gospel of Thomas continues. The dates and titles in this series include:

April 5th: Being Is Believing | April 12th: What Lies Beneath |

April 19th: Who Do You Say You Are? | April 26th: Heaven Is Under Your Feet |

May 3rd: Our Beginning Is Our Ending | May 10th: Don’t Follow Me

note:

please turn off or silence your phones.

what lies beneath

by sid hall



witness in
word & art:
“everything’s
beautiful
now”
christine
albert

4/12/15 order of service

10:30 – 11:45 am

befriending creation

song of preparation *

“get on board”
african-american spiritual

chorus:
get on board, little children (× 3)
there’s room for many a more
get on board, little children (× 3)
there’s room for many a more

the train of light’s a-coming
i hear it just at hand
i hear the car wheels rumblin’
and rollin’ through the land

chorus

the fare is cheap and all can go
the rich and poor are there
no second class aboard this train
no difference in the fare

chorus

call to celebration *

by sally harris

one: gathered in this sacred space, o creator spirit, in the multicolored company of your church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation and invite your presence into our midst. we know, creator spirit, that eternity cannot hold you, nor can our little words describe the breadth of your faithfulness to us. yet in the space of our small heart and in silence, come close and repair us.

(silence)

one: creator spirit, bring new life

all: where we are worn and tired,

one: new love

all: where we have turned hard-hearted,

one: forgiveness

all: where we feel hurt and are wounded,

one: and the joy and freedom of your holy presence

all: where we are prisoners of ourselves.

one: creator spirit,

all: in the space of our small heart and in silence, come close that we may dream.

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 × 2

song *

“god of the sparrow, god of the whale” hymnal #122

UPDAT

Three Mystics Walk Into a Tavern

by Sid Hall &
Jim Harrington

Join us today to celebrate the release of Sid and Jim’s new book, which you can buy for \$25 (authors’ cost). They’ll sign copies and read some of their favorite excerpts. The book signing will accompany our monthly potluck in the Community Hall, after the service. Please feel free to attend and partake, even if you didn’t bring a dish to share. All are welcome!

Special Guest Musician Today – We’re honored to welcome Christine Albert on today as our very special guest performer. She’s a life-long musician and longtime Austinite. The publication *3rd Coast Music* has written that Christine has “one of the best and purest female voices in Austin.” Her new CD is entitled *Everything’s Beautiful Now* and will be available for purchase from Christine. Join us for this amazing opportunity to hear one of Austin’s premiere musical talents!

It’s Time for the 6th Annual MFSA BOPA Recycling Event, 4/18 – The Rio TX Chapter of MFSA is sponsoring its 6th annual residential recycling collection on Saturday, April 18. The event will be held at Memorial UMC, 6100 Berkman Dr., from 8:00 am – 10:30am. Simply drive up, provide your zip code, and volunteers will help unload your items. They can only accept these items: Batteries of all kinds; Oil of all kinds (in a closed container); Paint of all kinds, wet or dry (in a closed container); & Antifreeze (in a closed container). For more info, contact Anne Mund at ennadnum@hotmail.com.

Diversity, Dignity, and Dialogue: Continuing the Discussion – You’re invited to join us here on Sunday, April 19th, from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm as we continue our series “Diversity, Dignity, and Dialogue,” under the expert guidance of Dr. Kazique Prince and Jeremy Solomons. Once again, they’ll help create a safe space for discussion and add their own thought-provoking questions and group activities.

We believe these dialogues are crucial in helping us examine and understand systemic bias and discrimination. These

discussions are also assisting us in learning how to make sustainable, positive changes in our local community. Dr. Kazique Prince is a dynamic leader and communicator whose work includes extensive efforts in promoting diversity, inclusion, and community development. Jeremy Solomons is a highly skilled facilitator and passionate advocate for human rights and social justice.

This is a free event, and no registration is required. Please join us.

RMN Convocation’s Early Registration Ends Soon: April 15th – If you’re planning on attending the Reconciling Ministries Network Convocation in San Antonio, August 6th – 9th, then now’s the time to register! “Gather at the River,” sponsored by RMN and MFSA, will feature Rev. Frank Schaefer and Bishop Melvin Talbert as guest speakers. Early registration closes on Wednesday, April 15th. Single-day registration is also available. For details, see www.gather2015.org.

order of service, cont. 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.”

congregational prayer (together)

from more light presbyterians of new orleans

o god, whom no image can encompass, no definition encircle, and yet who meets us in the gentle touch of love, the beauty of a butterfly’s wing, and the laughter of children, help us to move beyond our attempts to limit you, intellectualize you, or to eliminate you from all that is earthy, sensuous, or vibrant, so that we may greet you in every particle of this spectacular universe which you are creating. amen.

befriending creativity

readings

selections from the gospel of thomas; what lies beneath: some brief reflections on the gospel of thomas by sid hall

witness & word in art

“everything’s beautiful now” by christine albert

befriending compassion

song for centering

“out beyond ideas”
words by rumi; music by wilcox & pettit

[chorus] out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing
there is a field. i’ll meet you there.

[repeat chorus]

when the soul lies down in the grass,
the world is too full to talk about.
ideas, language, even the phrase “each other” doesn’t make any sense.

[chorus]

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

healing directions adapted from alan acacia 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 *

“fill the world with love” *(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

scholarships for rmn-mfsa event in august

the reconciling ministries network & methodist federation for social action will host *gather at the river* in san antonio, from august 6th – 9th. this national event will feature special guest speakers, workshops, live music, and worship. today’s offering will provide scholarships for registration and allow several individuals from trinity, who otherwise couldn’t afford it, to attend. the registration fee is \$250, so the more you give, the more financial assistance we can offer!



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 counters

- ♥ marina metzger
- ♥ emily albrecht
- ♥ mike dellens

greeters

- ♥ gary brown
- ♥ tom hansen

other volunteers

- ♥ paula buls & phaedra chandler: sunday set-up
- ♥ jimmy alan hall: deposits
- ♥ michael milford: bulletins
- ♥ sunday homeless task force
- ♥ trey & linda: sanctuary clean up

“every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby god speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message.” ~malcolm muggeridge