

MEDITATIONS

[We get married] because we need a witness to our lives. There's a billion people on this planet, but what does any one life really mean? But in a marriage, we are promising to care about everything, the good, the bad things, the mundane things. We say your life will not go unnoticed, because I will notice it. Your life will not go unwitnessed, because I will be your witness.
~from the movie, *Shall We Dance?*

The spiritual marriage may also be compared to water falling from the sky into a river or fountain, where the waters are united, and it would no longer be possible to divide them or to separate the water of the river from that which has fallen from the heavens.
~Teresa of Avila

When love has carried us above and beyond all things, into the Divine Dark...we receive in peace the Incomprehensible Light, enfolding us and penetrating us.... What is this Light, if it be not a contemplation of the Infinite, and an intuition of Eternity? We behold that which we are, and we are that which we behold; because our thought, life, and being are uplifted in simplicity and made one with the Divine Truth, which is God.
~Jan van Ruysbroeck

Oh, night that guided me,
Oh, night more lovely than the dawn,
Oh, night that joined Beloved with lover,
Lover transformed in the Beloved!
All ceased and I abandoned myself,
Leaving my cares forgotten among the lilies.
~John of the Cross

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
larry roberts –
weekend sexton
aimee villaret –
children's teacher
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 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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**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

note: please turn off or silence your phones.

 **trinity**

“the power of myth for
our life and spirituality:
tales of love & marriage”

sid hall



2/22/15 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 gonna 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 david holdsworth

one: god in our distant places

all: draw us closer

one: god in lovers, family, friends,
strangers and outcasts

all: draw us closer

one: god in comfort, challenge, certainty
and surprise

all: draw us closer

one: god in appetites and
satisfaction, motivation and
ambition

all: draw us closer

one: god within us at our best

all: draw us closer

one: god within us at our worst

all: draw us closer

one: god who permeates all of
creation, each person here, and
all beyond our view

all: draw us closer. amen.

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 *

“when love is found” (*insert*)

befriending letting go

call to prayer

update



Special 1st Sunday Potluck, Sunday, March 1 – Please join us next week after the service for another special edition of our First-Sunday Potluck. We'll be continuing our discussion about the possibility of aligning with the UCC. Trinity would maintain its UMC affiliation but also develop a UCC affiliation. The discussion next Sunday will include plenty of time for questions and comments from those in attendance. Trinity's Leadership Team wants to be sure that we fully consider the benefits and concerns that could accompany this potential relationship.

Remember to bring a yummy dish to share! We always enjoy the variety of food that Trinity folks bring to a potluck.



A New Session of Wellsprings of Wisdom Is Underway! –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 second Winter Session of WOW:

- ❖ "Writers' Workshop: *Writing Down the Bones*" led by Bob & Light German and Joanne Holladay.
- ❖ "Thank God for Evolution Book Discussion" led by Russ Harper.

Although the first class meeting has already occurred, it's not too late to sign up and attend the 4 meetings that remain. If you're interested, please send your request to Shelley at mail@tumc.org.

ritual of joining

liturgy adapted by sid hall

pastor: as members of trinity united methodist church, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

new member or members: i will.

pastor: members of the household of god, i commend these persons to your love and care. do all in your power to strengthen their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

congregation: we give thanks for all that god has already given you, and we welcome you in love. as members with you in the body of christ and in trinity united methodist church, we renew our commitment to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church and to the work of justice & compassion on earth as it is in heaven. amen.

order of service, cont.

"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

a contemporary interpretation by jim burklo (*together*)

dear one, closer to us than our own hearts, farther from us than the most distant star, you are beyond naming.

may your powerful presence become obvious not only in the undeniable glory of the sky, but also in the seemingly base and common processes of the earth.

give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together, because clever as you have made us, we still owe our existence to you.

we recognize that to be reconciled with you, we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings, putting hate and bitterness behind us.

we are torn between our faith in your goodness and our awareness of the evil in your creation, so deliver us from the temptation to despair.

yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty. so it is, amen.

befriending creativity

trinity earth band

readings

song of songs 2:10-13 & rumi;
joseph campbell in *the power of myth*

message

"the power of myth for our life and spirituality: tales of love & marriage"
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

directions by white bard

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 *

"shower the people" (*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)



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

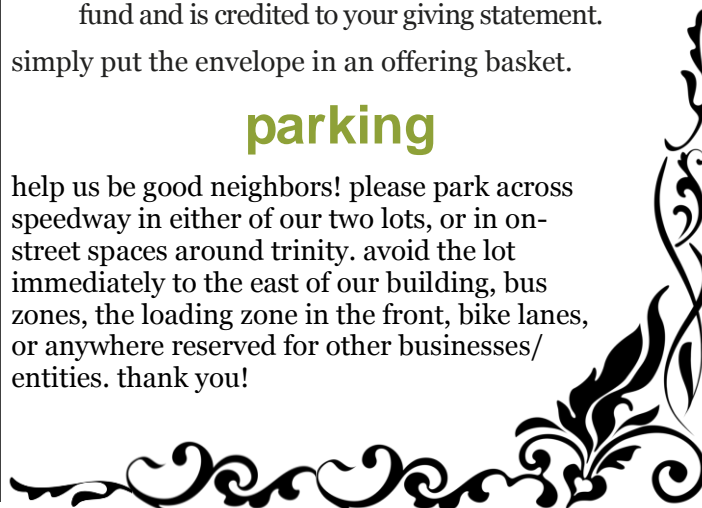
envelopes can be used to:

- 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

austin district causes

austin district causes are part of trinity's commitment to the greater united methodist church through apportionments: "a portion meant for others." some apportionments funds go to support global efforts, but the austin district fund supports local organizations like hope food pantry of austin, montopolis friendship community center, and new life institute counseling center.

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

- ♥ candy gross
- ♥ brandon wollerson
- ♥ emily albrecht
- ♥ deb campbell

greeters

- ♥ mary pratt
- ♥ leeann tacchi

other volunteers

- ♥ loel graber: sunday set-up
- ♥ jimmy alan hall: deposits
- ♥ sunday homeless task force
- ♥ susie tacchi: kitchen laundry
- ♥ trey & linda: sanctuary clean up

"listen; there's a hell of a good universe next door: let's go." ~e. e. cummings