

MEDITATIONS

In antiquity, particularly the culture of the Near East from which our Bible comes, life was organized around sacred story and everybody knew that the stories contained details that did not necessarily correspond to fact. What the stories contained were myths – not in the modern sense of lies or falsehoods, but ordered truths that explain the universe.

~Marcus Borg

When hope is not pinned wriggling onto a shiny image or expectation, it sometimes floats forth and opens.

~Anne Lamott

I saw a beggar leaning on his wooden crutch,
he said to me, "You must not ask for so much."
And a pretty woman leaning in her darkened door,
she cried to me, "Hey, why not ask for more?"

Oh like a bird on the wire,
like a drunk in a midnight choir
I have tried in my way to be free.

~Leonard Cohen

Christianity doesn't propose proof; instead it invites faith. Faith in what? Not in facts and data, but in truth – which is often to be found in myth.

~Mark Beckwith

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.

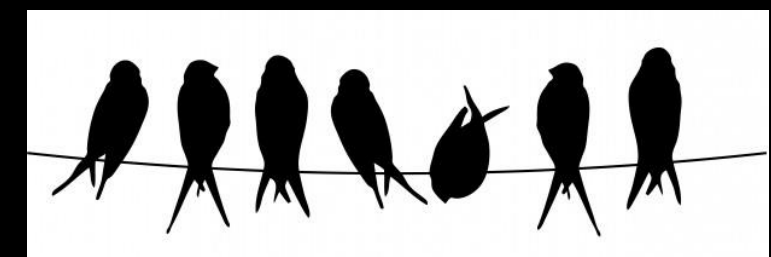
Shortly after arriving at Trinity in 1988, I learned that Joseph Campbell, who had died the year before, had collaborated with Bill Moyers and Austin's Betty Sue Flowers, in a new PBS series, "The Power of Myth." In the fall of 1988, Betty Sue presented an 8-evening preview of the series for the Austin 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.

trinit
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"the power of myth for our life and spirituality:
thinking mythologically as a christian"

sid hall

3/8/15 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 (x 3)
there's room for many a more
get on board, little children (x 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 *

arranged by l. griswold ames

one: love is the doctrine of this church,
the quest of truth is its sacrament,

all: and justice-making is its prayer.

one: to dwell together in peace, to seek
knowledge in freedom,

all: to serve human need,

one: to the end that all souls shall grow in
harmony with the divine—

all: thus do we covenant with each other and with god.

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

song *

"god of grace and god of glory"
hymnal #577

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

a reading of the original aramaic by
neil douglas klotz

abwoon d'bwashmaya

(together)

update



It's Time to Order Your Easter Lilies! – With Easter just a few weeks from now, it's time to place your order for Easter lilies, in honor of and/or in memory of loved ones. Please sign up on the sheet being passed around during the service. You can also order lilies by emailing your info to Shelley at mail@tumc.org. Lilies are \$15 each (our cost).

Mark Your Calendars Now for Our May 2015 Retreat – While the details are still being worked out, we wanted to alert everyone now to an exciting event scheduled for May 15-17, 2015. Led by Will Taegel, the retreat will combine shamanic stories, psychological models, philosophic observation, and scientific exploration in a variety of teaching and experiential modalities. Dr. Taegel's current focus is on eco-

fields, which is an integration of ecology and quantum fields, and the need to balance human nature with Mother Nature. The retreat will take place here at Trinity.

Stay tuned for more info in the coming weeks!



RIF Book Distribution Volunteers Needed This Week – Trinity's United Methodist Women participate in Reading Is Fundamental twice yearly at local elementary schools. They'll be helping to distribute books at Campbell Elementary (near E. MLK Blvd. & Airport Blvd.) on March 10, 11, & 12, and they're looking for some volunteers to lend a hand. For many of these kids, the books they get from RIF are the only books they'll own. Help UMW promote literacy and the joy of reading. Here are the time slots when volunteers are needed:

- Tues., March 10: 8 am – 12 pm; 1:30 pm – 2 pm

- Wed., March 11: 8 am – 12 pm
- Thursday, March 12: 8 am – 9:30 am; 1 pm – 2 pm

Please contact Susie Tacchi to sign up or for more info (512-292-0376; txtacchi@att.net).

MFSA Meets This Week & You're Invited – The March meeting of the Rio Texas Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action will feature John and Lee Ann Musler, members of University UMC. The Muslers will share their story about becoming involved with PLUM Cares, the justice ministries of Parker Lane UMC in southeast Austin. What started as a small outreach to area residents has grown into vital ministries, including a ministry to immigrants. The meeting takes place on Thurs., March 12th at 6:30 pm at St. John's UMC (2140 Allandale Rd., near Burnet Rd. & Koenig Ln.).

order of service, cont.

o birther! father-mother of the cosmos, you create all that moves in light.
o thou! the breathing life of all, creator of the shimmering sound that touches us.

respiration of all worlds, we hear you breathing – in and out – in silence.

source of sound: in the roar and the whisper, in the breeze and the whirlwind, we hear your name.

radiant one: you shine within us, outside us – even darkness shines – when we remember.

name of names, our small identity unravels in you, you give it back as a lesson.

wordless action, silent potency – where ears and eyes awaken, there heaven comes.

o birther! mother-father of the cosmos!

befriending creativity

trinity celebration choir

readings

- acts 1:6-14;
- joseph campbell in *the power of myth*

message

“the power of myth for our life and spirituality: thinking mythologically as a christian” 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

witness in art

rolando perez & tim brace

earth prayer

directions by joan goodwin; adapted by sid hall

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 *

“wellspring of wisdom”
hymnal #506

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

crop walk

funds raised from crop hunger walks help to support the overall ministry of church world service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. in addition, 25% of the money raised in the crop hunger walk in austin is distributed to local hunger-alleviating agencies in the austin area. find out more at www.cropwalk.org.



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

- ♥ paula buls
- ♥ deb campbell
- ♥ paula buls
- ♥ mary pratt

greeters

- ♥ mary pratt
- ♥ leeann tacchi

other volunteers

- ♥ emily albrecht: kitchen laundry
- ♥ paula buls & phaedra chandler: sunday set-up
- ♥ michelle renee edwards: bulletins
- ♥ jimmy alan hall: deposits
- ♥ sunday homeless task force
- ♥ leeann tacchi: sunday set-up help
- ♥ trinity worship team

“law and justice are not always the same.”
~gloria steinem