



Trinity Lutheran Church  
Saturday, January 24, 2026  
3rd Week After Epiphany-RIC  
Nicodemus

\*Indicates please stand as you are able

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*"Hymn"*

Mark Kellner

©2013 Hope Pub OL#109335

## GATHER

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP\*

- P: We, of many backgrounds and identities, personalities, and ideas, gather collectively in shared pursuit of the Sacred.
- C: Together, we make up the body of Christ.**
- P: Wherever one of us is in pain,
- C: our whole body aches.**
- P: Whenever one of us is cut off,
- C: the whole body is wounded.**
- P: Whoever is kept away by discriminatory policies or practices or prejudices,
- C: Our collective soul suffers the loss of their presence.**
- P: We need one another in order to be whole,
- C: God make us the body of Christ as you envisioned.**
- P: May we become your presence enfleshed, in service to the world and one another.

Written by M Jade Kaiser, Enfleshed

### \*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS\*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

- P: God who shepherds the lost and comforts the afflicted,
- C: Guide our hands to touch the untouchable; Our ears to listen to the hopeless; Our eyes to see the misery of others; Our hearts to feel the pain of prisoners; Empower us to take risks to be channels of healing and mercy; So that this world may be a better place. Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG\***

*"All Are Welcome"*

Hans Peterson &  
Larry Olson  
©1999 Dakota Road Music CCLI #2944348

*Chorus*

All are welcome friend and stranger

At the banquet of the Savior

All are welcome all are welcome here

1. From the woman who comes crying

Leaving tears at Jesus' feet

To the man who knows the right way

But cannot see (chorus)

2. From the ones who feel forgotten

Those who sense their place is gone

To the ones who live in hunger

Here you belong (chorus)

3. Go into the streets and cities

To the farms and families

Tell about the splendid table

God's mercy (chorus)

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY\***

**God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & OFFERING**

**Pastor Rick**

## GOSPEL READING

JOHN 3:1-21

L: The good news according to John 3

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

L: The gospel of God.

C: **Praise be to God.**

## SERMON

Pastor Rick

## SONG OF THE DAY

*"Spirit, Open My Heart"*

**ACS #1043**

Ruth Duck, M: Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak

©1996 Pilgrim Press, ©2011 Alfred V. Fedak OL#20093

### *Refrain*

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.

As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.

Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*
2. Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory. *Refrain*
3. May I weep with those who weep;  
share the joy of friend and neighbor.  
As I live from day to day,  
love will be my finest labor. *Refrain*

**\*CREED\***

**We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.**

**We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.**

**We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.**

**We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.**

**We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.**

**We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.**

**We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world.**

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS\***

P: Merciful God,  
C: **receive our prayer.**

**\*PEACE\***

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.  
C: **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

*If you have a monetary offering, please place in the plate as you leave worship today,  
or use this code to give electronically.*



**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER\***

P: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
C: **Amen.**

**MEAL**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING\***

P: The Holy One be with you  
C: **And also with you**  
P: Open your hearts to the One who is Love  
C: **We open our hearts to you, O God**  
P: Let us give thanks to God who sets us free  
C: **It is our joy to give you thanks!**

**\*WORDS OF PROMISE\***

It is our joy, O God, to express our gratitude for your work in us. You offer to us life abundant, free from needing to conform to the pressures of our world. You wove us together with all of creation that we might be, like you, creators. You set us in the garden to plant, to grow, to help life to flourish. You set a path before us to co-create with you a world where beauty and truth and goodness might thrive.

But we have betrayed our calling. Instead of allowing life to flourish in its many forms, too often, O God, we turn away from those who don't conform to our expectations. At times, we even become violent towards anyone who is different. Your creative hand in the formation of our queer and trans siblings is punished by both church and world. Since the beginning, we have struggled to overcome our fear of difference.

But in your love for all of us, you took on the very flesh the world despises. The flesh of one on the borders. The flesh of one who broke rules. The flesh of one who hung out with the outcasts, the weirdos, the sinners. In Christ, we are awakened to the Holiness of difference.

When the Sacredness of those on the margins is affirmed, the powers that depend on the status quo are threatened. And so, the religious and political leaders set out to end the life of Jesus.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around table with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

**“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying,

**“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”**

And so in remembrance of the One who refused to conform to values and practices that harm, we pray that the Spirit would make us one in our vision for the Kingdom, where all are free to flourish in our created forms. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, that we might be the body of the queer Christ, relentless pursuer of love in all its surprising, confronting, and varied manifestations.

**Amen.**

Written by M Jade Kaiser, Enfleshed

## **\*LORD’S PRAYER\***

**ELW pg. 112**

**Creator God, in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION\***

## **COMMUNION**

## **\*COMMUNION BLESSING\***

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

**C:** **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION\***

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us or others from living freely as our true selves. Where any social norm or power imbalance limits our possibilities for thriving, may we be a witness to Christ, pursuer of justice for all your people. Amen.

Written by M Jade Kaiser, Enfleshed

**SENDING**

**\*BLESSING\***

L: May the One who freed the people from slavery; led them dry-shod through the sea; suffering Empire's torture and execution and defeated the Power – even the Power of death! Free you, lead you, suffer with you, and raise you;

That you may use your weakness to be a blessing, your hope to be a force of change, and your audacious determination to usher in the kin-dom of heaven on earth.

C: **Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG\***

*"All Are Welcome"*

**ELW #641**

Marty Haugen

© 1994 GIA Pub #00004

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain

3. Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain

5. Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: Refrain

**\*SENDING\***

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE\***

To watch a recorded service, go to <https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranFC>  
Or visit our website and click on "To view recorded services click HERE!"



# Prayer List

## Members

Pastor Paul Schairer  
Mary Ann Armstrong  
Marilyn Hartig  
Polly Sersen  
Tim Anderson  
Eric Biedermann  
Jean Purath  
Mary Ann Miller  
Barb Klamann  
Shirley Garvin  
Madyson Hopkins

## Friends & Family

Sue Silver, friend of the Jurgenson family  
Tae, family of Clinton Ellerbe  
Amy Oduor, daughter of Clinton Ellerbe  
Joe Burt, brother-in-law of Clinton Ellerbe  
Deborah Stinnett, friend of Dan Merz  
Steve Eulberg, friend of Jim & Margaret Frye  
Ramona Haeder, sister of Rebecca Roland  
Jules Webb, daughter of Martha Webb  
Marilu Ritzman, friend of Rob & Aida Schmidt  
Douglas Hardie, friend of Rob & Aida Schmidt  
Susie Kragmeier, daughter of Kate Stieben  
Beth Barnett, daughter of Carolyn & Eric Biedermann  
Erin Slocum, daughter of Patty & Don Heyse

**To all who gather:** We are Reconciling in Christ, which means we strive to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and to work for racial equity and to commit to anti-racist work.

We welcome believers, seekers, and the curious, regardless of religious background. God makes no distinction based on race; ethnicity; immigration status; economic status; physical, mental, or developmental circumstances; or other life circumstances. God loves and welcomes all people. Therefore, we welcome all people to the life of Christ at Trinity.

*From Pastor Rick:* This community affirms its welcome by accepting me in this place. Diagnosed with Huntington's (HD), my progressing symptoms and neurodiversity are displayed publicly. The uncontrolled movements (chorea) may limit my functionality, or appear in other ways; yet, it is an opportunity to learn and love alongside one another. HD is part of me, but I am not defined by the diagnosis. As for all of us, I am defined as child of God.

**Guests and Visitors:** All are invited to receive the gluten free bread and wine of Holy Communion (juice is also available). Your offering is your presence in worship. Please fill out a welcome card and place it in the offering plate as you leave. Don't forget your 'Sweet Treat' plate from the welcome desk!

**Worship Note:** The red hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) page numbers are found in the front while song numbers are in the back. If you have any questions about worship or Trinity, our clergy or welcome table hosts are happy to help.

**Parents and Caregivers:** God's children of all ages are welcome in worship. If helpful, please use the Family Break Room outside the worship space or a "Worship Activity Bag" - available near the welcome table. On Sunday, if needed, we offer a fully trained Nursery; staffed by Tiffany K. and Zoe K.

**Special needs:** Hearing-assistance devices are available during our services. Holy Communion can also be brought to the seats of those who are unable to come forward. Our Welcome Table Hosts can help with any of these special needs.

### In Ministry Today

**Worship Assistant:** Sherry Albertson-Clark  
**Communion Prep:** Sherry Albertson-Clark  
**Welcome Table Host:** Gary & Debbie Schwartz  
**Fellowship Host:**  
**Prayer Writer:** Ronda Simmons  
**Bread Baker:** Dan Merz  
**Flower Arrangement:** Volunteers from  
St Paul's Episcopal

### Trinity's Clergy Leader:

Pastor Rick Reiten & Pastor Kaari Nieuwlandt

### Trinity's Staff:

Carrie Hansen	<b>Music Coord. &amp; Organist</b>
Tessa Espinosa	<b>Chancel Choir Director</b>
Clinton Ellerbe	<b>Saturday Worship Leader</b>
Austin Naylor	<b>Bells of Trinity Director</b>
Brenda Harju	<b>TLC Preschool Director</b>
Brenda Moore	<b>Financial Manager</b>
Deana Andrist	<b>Office Administrator</b>
Amanda Backsen	<b>Director of Communications &amp; Volunteer Coord.</b>
Claire Pickerel	<b>AV Technician</b>
Jennifer Reeve	<b>Shared Children's Minister</b>
Tiffany Klijewski	<b>Nursery Coord.</b>
Zoe Klamann	<b>Shared Nursery Attendant</b>

*\*Staff Emails are available on our website\**

### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

#### **Monday (January 26)**

12 pm Sermon Discussion-Fireside  
6:30 pm (5) NoCo Male Spirituality

#### **Tuesday (January 27)**

5:30 pm JET Eco Justice-Room 2

#### **Wednesday (January 28)**

5:15 pm Bells of Trinity-Room 1  
6:30 pm Chancel Choir-Choir Room

#### **Thursday (January 29)**

9:30 pm Bible Study-Room Room 2  
3-5 pm Spanish Class-Room 2  
6 pm Chapter 2 Readers-Fireside

#### **Friday (January 30)**

10 am Quilting-Room 2

#### **Saturday (January 31)**

5 pm Worship

#### **Sunday (February 1)**

9 am Adult Forum-Room 2  
9 am Confirmation-Room 8  
9 am Sunday School-Room 3  
9 am Youth Group-Room 6  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Fellowship

### Coming Up:

**Sunday, February 15**  
301 Faith Partner Shared Service

**Wednesday, February 18**  
Ash Wednesday 12pm

## **Trinity Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.**

Trinity Lutheran – ELCA is a welcoming and inclusive faith community.

We are Reconciling in Christ, which means we strive to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and to work for racial equity and to commit to anti-racist work.

We welcome believers, seekers, and the curious, regardless of religious background. God makes no distinction based on race; ethnicity; immigration status; economic status; physical, mental, or developmental circumstances; or other life circumstances. God loves and welcomes all people.

Therefore, we welcome all people to the life of Christ at Trinity.

So, how can you learn more about Trinity?

Visit our website at [www.trinitylutheranfc.org](http://www.trinitylutheranfc.org)

Consider joining us for worship or one of our ministry events.

Contact one of our clergy for a chat.

We believe we are not a complete community, and that God is calling new people to join us and to find their place at Trinity.

We invite you join us on the journey of faith!

Saturdays at 5p.m. (Livestreamed & Recorded for Viewing)

Sundays 10:30 a.m. (Livestreamed & Recorded for Viewing)

**Trinity is a welcoming faith community living together in God's love to share the joy of Jesus Christ.**

### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

301 E. Stuart St., Fort Collins, CO 80525 (970) 482-1226

Website: [www.trinitylutheranfc.org](http://www.trinitylutheranfc.org) email: [office@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:office@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**TLC Preschool - 221-9852**



Copyright Notes - Current Copyrights—all music is reproduced under the following copyright license.

CCLI #1432547 & One License.Net#A-705827.

Liturgy: "Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World, 2011"