

The Service of Worship for
the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

GRACE-TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA), American Baptist Churches-USA

1430 West 28th St., Minneapolis, MN 55408-1903

612.872.8266; Fax: 612.872.7414; E-mail: adminsec@gracetrinitychurch.org

10:00 a.m. July 30, 2006

THE REV. SCOTT O. STAPLETON, SENIOR PASTOR

DAVID MERTESDORF, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

EILEEN DAHILL, INTERIM TUTORING COORDINATOR

DEBORAH CLARK, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Mission statement of Grace-Trinity Community Church (1997) :

"Grace-Trinity Community Church is a welcoming and affirming urban Christian congregation. We encourage freedom of thought and belief to nurture spiritual growth and provide opportunity for service in participation with the community to create shalom-peace and justice."

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE: "Solemn Melody"

H. Walford Davies

As you are able, please stand for starred times of worship.

***CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT:** "Come, Share the Spirit" (vs. 1)

Vicki Vogel Schmidt; 1987

Come, share the Spirit, moving among us, weaving in and through this place;
breaking down the walls that split and divide, bringing wholeness to embrace.
Come, Living Spirit, bloom in our hearts as when the desert bursts with life;
take thirsty souls, fill them with your love, and remove all greed and strife.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Come, share the Spirit moving among us,

TWO: Weaving in and through this place;

ALL: **Breaking down the walls that split and divide,
Bringing wholeness to embrace.**

ONE: Come, Living Spirit, bloom in our hearts

TWO: As when the desert bursts with life;

**ALL: Take thirsty souls, fill them with your love,
And remove all greed and strife.**

from New Century Hymnal

***HYMN:** "Gather Us In" (vs. 1-2, 4)

Marty Haugen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors and members are encouraged to fill out the registration form at this time.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Holy Giver of Life, Lover of those who run and skip and push walkers and roll in chairs and live with hidden pain in body and in mind, we sense your inclusive invitation to the table, but we hesitate. We turn away from those whose differing abilities we do not understand; we fear those whose differences can change the security and intimacy we feel in our close-knit community; we ignore those whose differences ARE their gifts. Forgive our lack of hospitality, teach us to trust your divine image that lives within each person, and give us courage to recognize and value the gifts of everyone. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Wise and loving Redeemer, there is no forgiveness without justice, and no justice without truth telling. It is in our covenant of grace as a community of faith that we turn to you and one another in trust and name our short comings, acknowledge your presence in person's gifts, restore our relationships and be assured that we have the forgiveness we need to continue the work of your compassionate love and peace.

Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The words, "The peace of the Lord be always with you," and the response, "And also with you," may be shared.

HEBREW LESSON: Isaiah 56:6-7

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant —these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

TIME WITH CHILDREN: "Stanley's Story"

Rev. Ron Cottone

Children five and under may leave for the nursery following this time.

It is located at the top of the 28th St. stairwell.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 2:1-12 “A Man with Paralysis”

When Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered at the house that there was no room left, not even outside the door, as Jesus preached the word to them. Four men came, bringing to him a man paralyzed. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they carried him to the roof and made an opening above Jesus. After digging through the roof tiles, they lowered the mat on which the man with paralysis was lying. When Jesus saw the faith of the man’s friends, he said to the man on the mat, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this man paralyzed, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, Jesus said to the man with paralysis, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This event amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Deborah Clark

***HYMN:** “ _____ ”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: God our Father, we thank you that our individual lives become complete as we live in community with others. We thank you that together we can do so much more than we can do separately. Yet together we also do evil things we would never dream of doing as individuals. We exclude some for selfish and unworthy reasons; we forget others because no one draws attention to their needs; we force yet others to turn their backs and go it alone. Father, we pray for all who do not feel that they belong:

We pray for the sick.

Remember the physically ill, that the burden of loneliness may not be added to their burden of illness. Remember the mentally ill. We realize with sorrow that many now in hospitals would not be there if we were a more loving and patient society. Remind us of our responsibilities to our brothers and sisters.

We pray for prisoners.

For those in prison for their political views, give them fresh hope. For those in prison for their offences, may they not be forgotten by the rest of society, but helped to find a new place in the community

We pray for the old.

Save them from being cut off from others merely because they have difficulty getting around. Show them what contribution they may make at this new stage in their lives.

We pray for the young.

Quicken in them a keen sense of what you are calling them to do. And keep them safe from the Tempter's power. Give tolerance and patience to those who must listen to what they have to say, and renewed courage and conviction to those who must carry out what you want done.

We pray for those with disabilities.

For all who have been forced to see their lives through other's prejudices, you intend to overcome every failure of the imagination on our part. Hear us now as we pray together,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

EPISTLE WITNESS: "Gifts that Differ" Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

SERMON: "God is in the Gifts" Rev. Ron Cottone

There follows a brief moment of silence for reflection.

*Theme: Each of us, including those who live with disabilities, has gifts to share.
Inclusion is an attitude that welcomes and uses the gifts of everyone.*

SILENT REFLECTION

A TIME OF OFFERING

INVITATION TO GIVE *(today's loose offering will go to DAMI, see back page.)*

Leader: Freely have we received, freely let us give, for God loves a cheerful giver. Let us present our tithes and our offerings to Almighty God.

SOLO: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Thomas Matthews
Elizabeth Woolner, soprano

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

—*Psalm 23*

***DOXOLOGY:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Leader: Heavenly Father, you have given us life; enable us to glorify you through worthy service. Take first place in our lives, and forbid it, we pray, that any personal ambition or unworthy purpose should keep us from doing the work you have committed to our hands. Forbid that we should sit idly by, merely as onlookers, when there is so much to be done; in Christ's name. Amen.

***HYMN:** "We All Are One in Mission"

see next page

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Menuet Gothique"

Léon Boëllmann

Thank you for joining us in this service of worship. It concludes once the last strains of the postlude have ascended. For those of you who want to greet one another right away, please carry on your conversation away from the sanctuary so as not to disturb those who are ascending along with the music. So it is that everyone will in their own way give glory to God.

+ + +

Welcome to Grace-Trinity. We are delighted that you are here to worship with us. During the summer, you are both choir and congregation, and we are grateful for everyone who joins in the chorus. May today's service be a blessing to you. We look forward to greeting one another during the coffee hour. It is located in the Gamble Room. The doors on either side of the pulpit will lead you there.

We extend a special welcome to our guest preacher, the Rev. Ron Cottone, Director of Disability Awareness Ministries. In the United States, 19.6% of the population are disabled.'s 53,907,000 people. Whether or not these persons can find a home at Grace-Trinity, Ron will help us assess. We can do something for them right now, however, namely, take up an offering to benefit this ministry. We ask that you make a generous contribution to Disability Awareness Ministries, care of the church. Today's loose offering will also go to that concern. Ron will also be on hand for an impromptu adult forum following the service. If you would like to know more about his work, please join him in the Library at that time.

Next Sunday falls on the weekend of the Uptown Art Fair. For those who would like to use the parking lot across the street—practically a necessity—Kenwood Isles Apartments has asked that we distribute parking permits. They are available in the church office.

Please note that in the afternoon, Kara Root will be ordained. You may use your parking permit; please follow parking attendant directions since the west end is not available to Grace. Helen Woehrlin is the greeter, John Lukach, the reader; and Bob Gulliver, the worship leader.

Our thanks to each of them for their service this day. If you would like a large print bulletin, or a personal hearing assistance device, an usher will be happy to provide you with one.

Disability Awareness Ministries, Inc.

The majority of people who live with a disability do not belong to a community of faith because they do not have access. Either the building has barriers that block them from entering or the congregation has attitudes that prevent them from participating in worship and programming. In Christian communities of faith,

this situation is ironic because the Christian gospel message declares that all are welcome and no one is denied access to fellowship. Jesus taught in his parables and through his healing ministry that salvation begins with access to the people of God and to the table of grace. In the story of the healing of the man with paralysis, the man's four friends new to be healed he had to have access to Jesus. They carried him to the top of the house where Jesus was teaching, removed the roof tiles and lowered him down into the midst of the room in front of Jesus, where he was healed. Access to the people of God, to a community of faith, is the beginning of salvation. But physical, communication and attitudinal barriers prevent too many people with disabilities from attending God's house and finding God's sustaining hope.

Removing barriers to access is a unique challenge to every congregation because each church is different and has its own set of circumstances. At Disability Awareness Ministries, Inc. (DAMI), we have found that organizing a group of volunteers from within the congregation is the best way to begin removing barriers. This group is called an Inclusion Team. It consists of about 12 people. Some team members may have disabilities, others may live with loved ones who have disabilities and still others may simply have a genuine call to be involved. The team receives training on disability awareness, surveying the building and congregation, and compiling and analyzing the data. Based on their analysis, the team makes recommendations to the congregation. The team does not function as a separate standing committee but rather fills the role of an internal advocate, guide, mentor and coach to all the standing committees and ministry staff on issues of access and inclusion. An Inclusion Team is a strategy for empowering a congregation to make its own decisions on what changes to make and how to make them. Through the team, the congregation retains ownership of the change process.

To learn more about Inclusion Teams, contact DAMI at 612-230-DAMI (3264) or ron.cottone@disability-awareness.org

Calendar

(An asterisk * indicates the event is open to the public.)

Today, July 30

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship***—Sanctuary, the Rev. Ron Cottone, preaching
- 11:00 a.m. **Coffee Hour***—Gamble Room
- 11:25 a.m. **Adult Forum***—Ron Cottone on Disability Awareness Ministries
- 1:00 p.m. MN Shakespeare—Robinson Room

Monday, July 31

- 6:30 p.m. The Mechanical Division—Borton Room
- 7:00 p.m. A.A.*—Robinson Room
- 7:15 p.m. RCA—Gamble Room

Tuesday, August 1: **(Rev. Scott returns from vacation)**

- 6:30 p.m. The Mechanical Division—Borton Room
- 7:00 p.m. A.A.*—Robinson Room

Wednesday, August 2: **Deborah Clark is visiting her mother on the east coast.** She will be back in the church office on Wednesday, Aug 9.

6:30 p.m. The Mechanical Division—Borton Room

7:00 p.m. Uptown S.A.A.—Gamble Room

8:00 p.m. N.A.—Library

Thursday, August 3: Robinson Room floor recoat, Aug 3-5

6:00 p.m. A.A.*—Gamble Room

6:30 p.m. The Mechanical Division—Borton Room

Friday, August 4 **Uptown Art Fair Weekend begins, Aug 4-6**

7:00 a.m. S.A.A. 12-Step—Library

Sunday, August 6

10:00 a.m. **Worship, Communion***—Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour***—Gamble Room

4:00 p.m. **The Ordination of Kara K. Root to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament***—Sanctuary, with a reception to follow in the Gamble Room.

5:00 p.m. CMA—Fireside Room