



Founded October 29, 1978

Sundays

Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am

Worship Service 10:45 am

1200 Clover Hill Road

Mansfield, TX 76063

(817) 473-1712

Email:

trinitymansfield@att.net

Website:

trinitygracemansfield.org

Office Hours:

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monday through Thursday

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Mike Johnston

(704) 860-2356

revdrmike4@att.net

Administrative Assistant:

Melody Lammons

(817) 473-1712

trinitymansfield@att.net

Pianist:

Chaeun Lee

Liturgist:

Trich Zaitoon

If you need emergency
pastoral care please contact:

Rev. Dr. Mike Johnston

(704) 860-2356

Floral arrangements donated by
Flowers, Etc. in historic
downtown Mansfield.

April 28, 2024

Welcome to Sunday Worship Service

5th Sunday of Easter

“The Real Meaning of Love”

** Indicates to please stand if you are able

WELCOME AND GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE "Claire de Lune" Claude Debussy

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us.

All: We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.

One: May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

All: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.

** Opening Hymn #462 "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

CALL TO PRAYER OF THE DAY

As a community of faith, we gather each week to share in worship. God joins us in this time as we praise God's ongoing works, as we celebrate God's still-speaking voice, as we confess our humanity. Lord, we don't always live our lives in loving ways – we snap at the person who took the parking space; we are cranky while standing in line at Lowe's; we roll our eyes when we hear something that doesn't agree with our beliefs or values; all the while forgetting that all we encounter are your children as well. Help us to be better lovers – of you, of our neighbors and even of our enemies – for that is what we are called to be and do.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, we thank you for your gift of guidance. Jesus taught us the blessed lesson that to dwell with you is not an obligation. It is a joy. We abide in you by striving to live in love. May we be the bounty of the fruit of the vine to feed your people with righteousness and justice. May we bring to the world the grace afforded unto us. Amen.

(Let us take a moment for silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Jesus walked on the earth and knows the temptations that lead us away from God. His gift of healing extends even to our failures.

All: Jesus' life shows us the transforming power of God's mercy in a world of hurt and pain. His ceaseless love and grace assure us of forgiveness. Thanks be to God.

** PARDON RESPONSE #579 "Gloria Patri"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (if children are present)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

Jesus the True Vine

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples.

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES 1 John 4:7-21

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love^[a] because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Love, First, Last, Always" Rev. Dr. Mike Johnston

** HYMN #359 "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God . . . we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus the Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God – preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to believe the gospel message.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equal in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. God acts with justice and mercy to redeem all of creation. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves as forgiven and beloved so that we may love God and love neighbor. All the while binding us together with all believers in the one body of Christ. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced and to work always for justice, freedom and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

DEDICATION OF OUR LIVES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "As the Deer" Martin J. Nystrom

** OFFERTORY RESPONSE #592 "Doxology"

** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

** PASSING OF THE PEACE

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

** HYMN #536 "Lord, Make Us More Holy"

** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Amazing Grace" J. Newton

TIME FOR DISCUSSION

2024 SESSION MEMBERS

Building & Grounds – Howard Redfearn
Fellowship – Sally Vickery

Clerk of Session – Tom McGuinness
Mission & Outreach – Janet Bailey

Finance – Jerry Johnson
Worship – Sonja Corbin (Godeken)

Thai Church – KC Sathid

Rev. Dr. Mike Johnston - If you need to reach Rev. Johnston, his contact information is: revdrmike4@att.net or 704-860-2356. For appointments, please contact Rev. Johnston directly or call Melody during office hours.

Mission Statement: Centered in Jesus Christ, we are an open, welcoming family of faith.

Vision Statement: As faithful followers of Jesus we offer an inclusive sanctuary for people who wish to deepen their faith through inquiry, study, worship, and service. We are committed to treating all equally and serving the community through loving action.

PRAYER LIST

Beth Littlejohn – fighting cancer (Trich's sister-in-law)	Sharon Wiedeman (Trich's friend)
Doyle Redfearn (Patricia's FIL, needing more surgery)	Christine C. (Trich's friend)
Steve Haley (cancer & chemo)	Ken Christopherson's Family (Ken passed away)
Brenda Clark (Mackenzie Hien's mother)	Carole Norwood (had a bad fall)
Robin Chester – Thyroid issues (Peggy's Son)	Chou Chou (Ron's wife) (Get green card & come here)
Jean Tinkle (brother passed away)	Sharon B (Mike's friend (diagnosed with breast cancer)

*But truly God has listened;
He has given heed to the words of my prayer.
Psalm 66:19*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZOOM OPERATORS

May 5th – KC Sathid
May 12th – Sonja Corbin (Godeken)
May 19th – Sonja Corbin (Godeken)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are so happy to have you join us for worship today! We would greatly appreciate it if you would take a moment and fill out the page in the Fellowship Folder.

BIBLE STUDIES / FELLOWSHIP

“The Chosen” viewing, meets the first Wednesday of each Month at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary
Community Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Education Building
Knitting, Crocheting & Hand Crafts Fellowship meets every Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the Library
“17 Minute or Less” Bible Study meets every Sunday at 10:15 AM in the Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5th – Farewell to Chaeun
May 1st – The Chosen
May 3rd – Rick Kinsell's “Celebration of Life” -
(Details in the weekly update email)
May 19th – Pentecost Potluck Picnic

FACILITY USAGE

TGC Food Pantry meets on the first and second Monday of each month to bag food for distribution and the second Wednesday of each month from 6:00 – 7:00 PM to distribute food to our local families.

Mansfield Group meets every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 PM for their AA Meetings.

Thai Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 11:00 AM