

Growing as Disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, learning, fellowship and outreach

EXPERIENCING POWER AND JOY IN PRAYER

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:2-6

Whenever I read the letters of Paul, I am continually astonished at how his deepest desire is for the growth of the Kingdom of God; and for the advancement of the gospel throughout the world. As he wrote to the believers in Colosse, he was under house arrest and in chains. So when Paul asked for prayer, it is jarring to our modern ears that he didn't ask for prayers for deliverance, but for the gospel to go forth.

That doesn't mean that we should ever pray for deliverance. But I think it is instructive as to why we sometimes don't experience great power or joy in prayer. In these short verses, Paul teaches us several lessons for how to pray.

First, Paul says, devote yourself to prayer. Prayer is a devotion, a constant choice. We don't just squeeze it in when we feel we have time, but actually build our lives around it. Prayer is not an optional extra, but a bedrock commitment. Devotion to God and devotion to prayer always go together. If we only pray when things go wrong or when we feel a particular need, we often miss out on powerful and joy-producing prayer because it isn't really born of devotion to God, but of a sense of personal crisis.

Second, we are to be watchful. This means two things. It means, firstly, that we are to keep our eyes open to what God is doing in our lives and in the life of a sleeping and unaware world. Right away, we notice that this kind of watchful prayer is not focused on ourselves, but on God. It springs from a lively sense that God is always at work in and around us, and so we need only have open eyes to see what God is doing.

It means, secondly, that we are ready to recognize answered prayer. We pray with expectation. Now, does that mean that God will always give us what we want? Unfortunately, no. But it does mean that we expect God to hear and respond to our prayers in accordance with His will. It means we have the conviction that God is always active in our lives, working for good, even when we cannot see it.

Third, we are to be thankful. Watchfulness and thankfulness go hand in hand. As we become aware of what God is doing and how God is always answering our prayers, we will be thankful. We will be thankful for the happy things, and we will be growingly thankful for the ways that God works for good in the challenging and difficult things, for the ways in which we become aware that God is with us even in the hardest places. Watchfulness breeds thankfulness. And thankfulness breeds watchfulness. And they both produce joy!

Fourth, and finally, I think Paul's underlying desire teaches us something powerful about prayer. What are we to pray for? We are to pray for the message of Jesus to go forth! Paul asks the Colossians to pray for him and



Continued from page 1

his companions to have opportunity to proclaim the good news of Jesus even when he is in chains. All too often, it seems that we miss out on experiencing joy and answered prayer because we simply aren't praying about the things God is intent upon doing. He is always at work, but not always doing what we want Him to do.

The more we come into line with God's will, the more we will experience His power and joy because we will be joining in His own heart. We should certainly pray for our needs, but it shouldn't end there. Jesus encourages us to pray for our needs as He teaches us to ask for "our daily bread," but that comes only after praying, "Thy Kingdom come."

Yours in Christ,



The Councils of the Church

"We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father" – Portion of the Nicene Creed, BCP 2019, p.127



Acts 15 is the first time we see the church coming together to discuss dissension. This would become known as the Council of Jerusalem. But it is not until 325 AD that the Church has its first council on a global scale.

These global councils are known as *ecumenical councils*, where bishops and other leaders gather to discuss and rule on Christian doctrine.

Denominations differ on which of the councils are legitimate, but Anglicanism has traditionally held to the first seven councils as valid. These seven councils are the **First Council of Nicaea** (325), the **First Council of Constantinople** (381), the **Council of Ephesus** (431), the **Council of Chalcedon** (451), the **Second Council of Constantinople** (553), the **Third Council of Constantinople** (681), and the **Second Council of Nicaea** (787). These seven councils discussed major theological topics that are essential to us understanding who it is that we worship and growing our relationship with Jesus Christ.

The First Council of Nicaea

The First council was gathered in the year 325 AD to discuss the divinity of Jesus. It was called by Emperor Constantine and more than 300 bishops showed up.

A man named Arius taught that Jesus was only the son of God, thus he was not eternal and subordinate to God the Father. He was countered by Bishop Alexander of Alexandria. Alexander held that Jesus was of the same substance as the Father and was God, eternally begotten. After four months of debate, the church ruled in favor of Alexander, deeming the beliefs of Arius a heresy known as Arianism. Fun fact: This is the council that St. Nicholas is famous for punching/slapping a bishop -- that bishop being Arius himself. The title of this council probably rings a bell to you as every Sunday we say the Nicene Creed. It was at this council that we have the first version of that creed.

One of the most fundamental creeds of faith we have is from this council. What we confess after the sermon is the truth of the Church. To hold to these truths is the foundation of what we build as disciples. When we say the creed, we speak it along with the entire Christ body, including the Church 1700 years ago.

Next time you say the Nicene Creed, and every time subsequently, don't just say the words. Focus on what it is we confess. Focus on the Truth. In it holds the beauty of Jesus Christ, the man who died for us and allows us to have a personal relationship with Him, for He is God incarnate.

Blessings,
Fr. Spencer Stubblefield

Youth Group

Youth Group for 6th-12th Grade meets on Sundays from 6:30-8:00pm. Frs. Spencer & Karl and the Youth Team are excited to meet with fun games, meaningful teaching, and great fellowship.



TRINITY PRESCHOOL

Our preschool is looking forward to the new year! Though we are still in this pandemic, we are constantly praying that we can get back to normal. Our children are so happy to be at school. Our staff continues to create a fun and educational environment for our students. We are truly blessed!

In February, we are looking forward to our Valentine exchange and cookie painting party - Yummy! Our students can bring in their own valentine's, candy and goodies to share with their friends. The preschoolers love getting special things to take home and show their families.



Trinity Preschool will be opening our summer and 2022/23 Fall enrollment soon. Continue to pray for full classrooms, healthy staff members and students. We are blessed by hiring a new teacher. Her name is Ms. Stephanie. The children think its funny to have two teachers named Ms. Stephanie's, however, we quickly found that its confusing. Ha! We will be calling her by her last name. Ms. Stephanie has 26 years of early childhood experience, and has enjoyed her time, so far, at Trinity. We are looking forward to getting to know her.



Look at these happy and silly kiddos. Our students love to play dress up, and I love seeing their imaginations go wild. The weather has stayed chilly, so our teachers create fun play environments for the students to learn.

As always, thank you for all the prayers and endless support you have shown for our precious preschool. I pray that this new year has started off well. We will continue to be the best preschool in town and will continue to do everything we can to keep our staff and students safe and healthy!

Prayers and Blessings,
Ms. Jennifer – Director

THE MISSION OF JESUS

LESSONS FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A SERMON-BASED SMALL GROUP STUDY

ARE YOU IN A SMALL GROUP?

Small Groups

*Growing together through
fellowship and learning*

We believe that followers of Jesus grow best in fellowship and community with other disciples where we can help one another grow and can discern how God is working in one another's lives (Eph. 4:16). That's why Small Groups are at the heart of how we grow here at Trinity! Each year we engage in three sermon-based small group series (Epiphany/Winter, Easter/Spring, and Late Pentecost/Fall). The five-week Epiphany/Winter series will kick off the week of Sunday, January 23 and run through the

week of Sunday, February 20. The series will explore *The Mission of Jesus: Lessons from the Gospel of Luke*.

What kind of time commitment do I make to a group?

We are mindful that we live in a busy culture and that certain times of year, like the holiday season, are particularly busy. Small groups meet for three series each year, varying in length from five to eight weeks, depending on the calendar.

What if I join a group that doesn't "fit" with me?

Because we are convinced that we grow best in fellowship with one another, it is important to find the right group for you. We ask people to commit to their group for the length of the series. At the end of the series, people are free to continue with that group, try another group, or take a break until a later series.

How do I join a group?

That's the easiest part! You can fill out the small group registration form on our website (<https://trinitybakersfield.com/sermons-small-groups/join-a-small-group>), call the church office (665-7713), or get in touch directly with our small group coordinator, Debbie Gibson (emsbubby@icloud.com).



Ash Wednesday March 2nd

Distribution of Ashes And Holy Communion

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED

Board of Directors

Patrick Beck, Berney DeLaCruz, Regina Pryor, Patty MacGuire

Continuing Board Members

Will Adams, Edwin Camp, Debbie Gibson, John Karnes,
Merry McCalley, Lori Miller,
Rick Radon, Linda Schuler

Diocesan Convention Delegates:

Delegates: Monica Ayuso, Donna Chaffee, Steve McCalley, Paul Wagner
Alternates: Jane Kleindienst, Lori Pflugh

LADIES BROWN BAG LUNCH SOCIAL



Our next Brown Bag Lunch will be on Tuesday, February 22nd at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. We encourage all ladies of Trinity to join us and bring a lunch and drink. Please feel free to invite a friend or two. Guests are always welcome!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Don Knowles

Susie Dietze

Sandy Roper

Roland Bogie'
Melanie Mullins

Juana DeLaCruz

Charisse Adams

John Karnes

MC Knowles

Valerie Alvarado

Eden Carroll
Wayne Deats
Tom DeNatale
Merry McCalley
Kristin Nommensen

Asencion Eseberre

Elaine Kelly

Mildred Woods

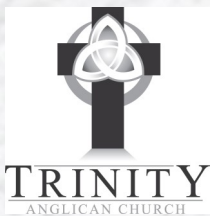


TRINITY STATS

Financial

<u>December 2021</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Operating Income	\$100,462	\$535,543
Operating Expense	\$40,559	\$512,095
Building Debt Payment	\$12,719	\$152,628

Ages to Ages II (collected in December): \$61,993.40



Our Vision is to be followers of Jesus in the Anglican tradition, connected through discipleship groups, with every member engaged in traditional Worship, in-depth Bible Study, Parish Ministry, and local and global Mission Outreach.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Morning

8 a.m. Holy Communion

10 a.m. Holy Communion

Livestream at 10 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Taylor *Treasurer*
Edwin Camp
Will Adams
Debbie Gibson
John Karnes
Merry McCalley
Lori Miller
Rick Radon
Linda Schuler
Patrick Beck
Berney DeLaCruz
Regina Pryor
Patty MacGuire

11300 Campus Park Dr.
Bakersfield CA 93311

661-665-7713

office@trinitybakersfield.com
www.trinitybakersfield.com

OUR CLERGY

The Very Rev. Dr. Karl E. Dietze, Rector
The Rev. Spencer Stubblefield, Assistant
The Rev. John LaMar, Deacon
The Rev. Ron Christolear, Deacon