

glory and honor and praise All of creation All of creation resounds with the song Worship and praise Him The Lord of the Lord Spirit now living and dwelling within me
Keep my eyes fixed ever on Jesus' faces Let not the things of this world Let not the things of this world ever sway me I'll run till I finish this race Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne Be glory and honor and praise All of creation resounds with the song Worship and praise
Holy Lord You are holy Holy Lord Jesus Christ Is the Lord Singing Holy Lord You are holy You are holy You are holy Jesus Christ Is the Lord Singing You are holy You are holy You are holy Jesus Christ is the Lord

[8 : 41] Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne Be glory and honor and praise Call all the sinners to join in the song Worship and praise Him The Lord of Lords The Lord of Lords Lord of Lords The Lord of Lords Please be seated Good morning church

Good morning Today's reading will be found in Philippians 1 verse 3 to 11 This can be found on page 921 in the Pew Bible After the reading I will say this is God's word and then we respond with thanks be to God Let me read I thank God in all my remembrance of you Always in every prayer of mine for you all Making my prayer with joy Because of your partnership in the gospel From the first day until now And I am sure of this That he who began a good work in you Will bring it to completion At the day of Jesus Christ It is right for me to feel this way about you all Because I hold you in my heart For you are all

Are all partakers with me of grace Both in my imprisonment And in the defense and confirmation of the gospel For God is my witness How I yearn for you all With the affection of Christ Jesus And it is my prayer That your love may abound more and more With the knowledge With knowledge and all discernment So that you may prove what is excellent And so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ Filled with the fruit of righteousness That comes through Jesus Christ To the glory and praise of God This is God's word Thanks be to God Let us pray God you are faithful and righteous You are good Lord you love us all

You are the King of Kings And the Lord of Lords We worship you today For you are great We are self-centered and greedy Merciless and unfaithful We love ourselves only And don't love the body or our neighbors Like you have asked us We have sinned And we are sorry Take some time now To confess your sin To the Father Thank you Lord That you will finish the good work That you have started in us Lord help us to be filled With the fruit of righteousness That comes through Jesus Christ Just like Paul prayed For the saints at Philippi

Help us to be united And partner with each other To spread the good news of the gospel Help our love abound more and more Towards each other With the affection of Christ Jesus Grant us knowledge and discernment Thank you for dying on the cross For our sins And sending the Holy Spirit As our comforter and helper In the name of Jesus Christ we pray Amen Please stand if you are able The grace of God has reached for me

[13 : 54] And pulled me from the raging sea And I am safe On the solid ground The Lord is my salvation I will not fear when darkness falls His strength will help me scale these walls I see the dawn of the rising sun The Lord is my salvation Who is like the Lord Our God Strong to save

Faithful in love My dead is faith And the victory won The Lord is my salvation My hope is hidden in the Lord He flies each promise of His word When winter fades And the spring will come The Lord is my salvation In times of waiting Times of need When I know loss When I am weak

I know His grace Will renew these days The Lord is my salvation Who is like the Lord Who is like the Lord Our God Strong to save Faithful in love My dead is faith And the victory won The Lord is my salvation And when I reach The final day He will not leave me In the grave But I will rise He will call me home The Lord is my salvation The Lord is my salvation Who is like the Lord Our God Strong to save Faithful in love My dead is faith My dead is faith My dead is faith And the victory won The Lord is my salvation Glory be to God The Father Glory be to God The Son Glory be to God The Spirit The Lord is my salvation

My salvation Glory be to God My god My god the Father Glory be to God the Son Glory be to God the Spirit The Lord is my salvation The Lord is my salvation The Lord is my salvation Please be seated Well friends, welcome again to our morning service

[19 : 09] This is the point in our service when we take up an offering The ushers are coming around to collect an offering If you're visiting or new, don't feel any obligation to give Let me also point out that there are cards in the pew in front of you for both prayer requests on one side If there's any way that we can be praying for you as a leadership or as a church Feel free to fill that

out and you can put it in the basket as it comes around or there are boxes at either door or you can hand it to someone who looks like they know what they're doing at one of the doors Me or Matt or Pamela or anyone We'll be happy to get that to the right place If you're new, if you're visiting and you'd like to get a little more connected at Trinity on that card you can give us some of your contact info and we'd love to follow up with you and help you get integrated into the life of the church if you're interested in learning more Let me make a couple of announcements about what's coming up in the life of our church First, I just want to say save the date on Saturday, June 6th for the I Heart New Haven Day of Service So this is a citywide day of service that we do with our sister churches in Bridges of Hope which is a network of like-minded churches here in New Haven that want to worship God and serve God together in our city

So just mark your calendars for that Saturday, June 6th Registration for that day is going to be live very soon so stay tuned for more details for that We'll make sure that that registration link is distributed broadly but mark that out on your calendar, Saturday, June 6th This is also a time in the year when many of us are preparing to graduate or to move from New Haven because of school or because of work and if that is you, we'd love for you to let us know On Sunday, May 17th, we're going to be having what we call our Send-Off Sunday when we will be praying for and celebrating with all those who are graduating or moving Now there's a link on the homepage of the website where you can give us just some of your details about where you're going to and if you're moving or graduating we'd love for you to let us know so we can be praying for you On Saturday, May 2nd, there's a men's hike coming up weather permitting, there's an RSVP for that as well on the homepage of the website so men, if you're looking for a way to connect with other men be sure to sign up for the hike on the homepage of the website Next week after the service we'll be doing our summer book table

Now, maybe you look forward to the summer months because it means maybe less work or some vacation time things like that What a great time to soak in a good read that will edify your soul and we're going to have a whole slew of good books next week that you can choose from for free so you can be encouraged and you can be edified More often than not, you know growing Christians are reading Christians So we're going to have a book table after the service next Sunday where you can grab a book or two and find something good that will edify your soul After the service today in the fellowship hall not only will there be coffee hour but we'll also have our lost and found table out Are you wondering where that water bottle got off to?

Or that notebook? Check the lost and found table downstairs Who knows what reunion might take place as you go to the lost and found table after the service? Lastly, tonight at 7.30 here in the Sanctuary Living Water the Yale Christian Acapella Group will be giving a concert So come tonight all are invited and welcome to hear some great music that gives praise to our great God tonight at 7.30 here in the Sanctuary Good, so now let me invite up our Children's Ministry Coordinator Laura Anderson who's going to give us an update about Children's Ministry Hi church family Here at Trinity's Children's Ministry our vision is to come alongside parents and other adults in kids' lives in teaching their children about the Bible in such a way that they are transformed by God's love Our desire is for children to have a genuine relationship with Jesus to build a biblical foundation for their lives to grow in their faith and to love and serve the church and others

So let's see the children we have in Children's Ministry If you are a child anything from baby through our upper elementary class can you raise your hand? Really, really tall They're all throughout the sanctuary Some are already in nursery over there Let's give these kids a round of applause They are awesome We also have amazing volunteers who serve these children usually about once a month usually during the sermon time and we need more of them So we need about nine volunteers in Children's Ministry by mid-summer in order to run our full Children's Programming classes in the fall So if you agree with this mission agree with the vision the desire for these kids to grow in their own personal faith with Jesus in their knowledge of the Bible in serving others then we have a place for you We also have spots now that are ready to be filled if you don't want to wait and serve until the fall

[24 : 08] If you look around now not at the children but at the adults so like take a look around where you're seated anyone 18 and older Children's Ministry actually has the need of about over one in five of our regularly attending adults to be serving to make the programming work to meet all the needs of the kids all the range of classes that they require So if you think oh, that could be me please come and see me right through these doors here is our Children's Ministry wing I'll be there

after church you can come over find out what that might be like what the commitment would be If you're thinking ah, I'm only here one more year and then I know I'm only here for a season I'll be moving on that's okay we have a spot for you for that year If you're thinking I've not really worked that much with children before should I do this?

That's okay They are very welcoming and they would love to have you come talk with them play with them hang out with them during the sermon time If you are over 18 college student senior saint anyone in between we have people your age serving in Children's Ministry or in the recent past and we'd love to have you as well If you've been here a summer there is also air conditioning in the Children's Wing so that's always a plus for those really hot warm months If you are interested in serving or just finding out more about it please come and see me after church If it's not quite for you please continue to pray for the children at Trinity that they would grow in their faith their walk with the Lord and their love for Him and thank you Thanks Laura You know God has given Trinity a very unique mission

We get to be a church for the whole city in the heart of the city You know a lot of churches are able to be in the city but they're not able because of certain facility limitations or things to minister to all kinds of people but isn't it fabulous that we can be in the heart of the city and yet minister to everybody including families how unique that is So if you want to be a part of this team and help hoist the sail of the gospel and see where the wind takes us talk to Laura after the service To those of you who are serving in children's ministry and have recently been asked and signed up thank you very much for this We're really grateful for you Okay now is the time to dismiss our kids to children's ministry up through grade 5 Parents please remember to accompany your kids and make sure they're signed in If you are visiting this morning our children's ministry volunteers are there to help you and your kids get signed in get acquainted with the ministry be happy to help While the kids head off to class let's go ahead and stand and let's continue singing together My god Thank you. Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him. No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him. Jesus said that if I am weak, I should come to Him.

[27 : 59] No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him. For the Lord is good and faithful, He will keep us day and night.

We can always run to Jesus, Jesus strong and kind.

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.

No one else can be my shield, I should come to Him. For the Lord is good and faithful, He will keep us day and night.

We can always run to Jesus, Jesus strong and kind. Jesus said that I am lost, He will come to me.

[29 : 38] And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me. For the Lord is good and faithful, He will keep us day and night.

We can always run to Jesus, Jesus strong and kind. Jesus strong and kind.

Please be seated.

All right friends, well now we're going to hear from Brandon and from George and from Luke and Naomi about God's goodness and faithfulness in their lives.

We're so glad they're willing to share with us today and we know that we'll be encouraged by their words. So let me begin by inviting Brandon to start us off and then George will come up and Luke and Naomi and we'll go from there.

[31 : 14] Thanks Brandon. Good morning church. I'm Brandon Colas. My wife Bethany and I lead one of our church's small groups and I'm excited to be able to share how we have seen God at work in our family and our group.

During our time here over the past three years. So I'm going to talk briefly about the group just to give you a little bit of context and then share three blessings that I've seen during these two years that we've led the group.

So our small group in its present form began two years ago. Dennis and Stephanie Shung and Bethany and I had a shared vision of a group where couples could study the Bible together and we agreed to alternate hosting and leading and the church generously offered to pay for babysitting and so our girls do that.

They were keen to do that. And we began meeting on Fridays. Our usual rhythm is we'll have two or three studies, a social evening and a week off. And then after the first year that we did this Dennis and Stephanie moved to Minnesota and Bethany and I continued the group.

So we're a multi-generational group. We've got a mix of ages, singles, couples and parents with kids, parents without kids or that's not possible. Couples without kids.

[32 : 31] So usually we'll have dinner together and then the adults meet for Bible study and prayer afterwards and the kids hang out. It's good weather, they're on our trampoline. When it's not, they're in our basement.

We do the socials as like a whole group event so the kids are involved and the socials can get pretty intense. We had a field day recently and one of our members sustained a foot injury during the potato sack race, which is unfortunate.

He will go unmentioned but he also didn't even win the race despite the injury. So small group can get challenging at times. Another social, we separated the men and the women.

The women, I think they did like a craft thing. The men had a battleship night where we played like a live version of battleship and ate chicken wings. So that was pretty good as well. So the fellowship and those socials, they're pretty goofy but they're also like deliberate in the sense that we're trying to get to know each other better.

And do so in kind of a fun and informal way. They've also been important, well I'll get to that with the blessings so we'll hold off there. Three particular blessings that I've experienced.

[33 : 39] First of all, it's been watching God meets people's needs through these past years. And as you like get to know people in a home setting as opposed to like in a church setting, it's just a safer space.

You have more time. And watching people in the group become more willing to share things over time that they're struggling with or that they're worried about. And then also just like, you know, events happen as well.

And so watching those and watching people respond to those has been really precious. Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 talks about the church as a body and how parts can suffer and be honored together and the importance of that.

And so I think we've been able to see that both with people like with career successes or exciting things, but also hard things in people's lives and being able to be there and pray and share together with that.

So that growth as a group has been really precious. It's also been really neat seeing people grow spiritually and just kind of watching as an observer, as one of the leaders, watching people like purchase ESV study Bibles on their own just because they want to understand more of what we're doing.

[34 : 44] That's not like something Bethany and I like sold people on, you know, we don't get an Amazon commission or anything, but like that's really neat to see or seeing people step forward and be like, hey, can I lead a session?

And like, yes, yes, you can. And that's that's really neat, too. So watching that growth that I don't think we would have got outside of a small group setting or at least being able to observe it has been really neat.

I think the second thing that's been a real blessing is having a multigenerational group. Also in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul talks about, right, like the body metaphor and how different different people have different roles.

But I think it's really been neat seeing the adults and kids interact with each other. I think with children, they don't get a lot of adult interaction outside of like institutions, like they interact with adults at school or maybe in Sunday school.

But like having adults friends and like just being able to like talk with the adults informally or do these crazy events together has been really neat to see. And like like Laura was saying with the children's ministry, that's been really neat for me.

[35 : 50] I've been part of that, too, while I've been here. And just getting to know the kids of the church is really precious. So I'll plug for that, too. And finally, it's been a real blessing for me to watch my family and watch myself grow and learning about hospitality as well.

We've learned a lot from Stephanie and Dennis in this regard. Part of it is like having a deliberate like structure to evenings and events where people can get to know each other better.

And like also limiting the size of the group and limiting the membership, not to be exclusive, but also but rather like you can only grow in trust over time and with people that you're consistently meeting with.

And so learning how to do that and sometimes making hard choices has been really, I think, helpful. It's just been neat to see my family as well grow in like being willing to host hospitality. Sometimes Friday evenings like are a little bit rough, like leading up to the event, like sometimes we don't feel like doing it. But afterwards, we're always thankful that we've been able to do it. And so that's that's been really special, too.

[36 : 51] So as many of you know, we're a military family. We'll be moving to Kentucky this summer where I'll be working at Fort Knox. Yes, Fort Knox, like I'm not making this up. It's a real place, apparently.

It's been a very special three years for us here. And I think much of my growth has come thanks to being in the small group, not just leading it, but really, it's been being a part of it and having that fellowship together.

My family and I, like we wish we could have more time here, but we know God's work is going to continue. And so I'd encourage those of you who are at Trinity for a limited time, don't underestimate how much God can do in the time that you're here.

Don't sell him short. Don't sell yourself short. Like God works amazing things and he can do it quickly. So I'd encourage you with that. And for those of you who are here for the long term, thank you for being part of Ascending Church.

We've, you know, we've always been a military family. So like we're used to leaving. But last year when Dennis and Stephanie moved, that was like honestly like the first time in my like 20 years in the army that I've had somebody leave before me who is a dear friend.

[38 : 00] And it really hurt. And I was like, oh, that's what it feels like. Okay. So thank you. Thank you all like like sincerely for those of you who invest in us who are here for graduate school or here for other things.

You know that we're leaving. I understand now like like it hurts, but it really means a lot that you're willing to keep doing that. And so please continue to do so. See yourselves as Ascending Church because God is at work everywhere.

And it's great that you can be a part of that. So thank you. Good morning.

Romans 8, 28 is a verse that's familiar to many. It says this. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. In all things God works for good, even in difficult things. I've had an anxiety problem my whole life. This morning I'd like to tell you about three ways in which God has turned this plague of a problem into something beneficial.

[39 : 14] I was a worrywart at an early age, a young catastrophist. When I was in the first grade, one of my friends had to have open heart surgery. He told me that before the operation, he could actually hear his own heartbeat.

That really impressed me. But then, oh no, shortly thereafter, I noticed with horror that when I was lying in bed at night with my ear on my pillow and all was quiet, I could hear my heartbeat too. For months thereafter, I couldn't shake the image of myself being wheeled into the operating room with an IV drip in my arm. Never mind that the possibility of my having a heart condition might be contradicted by the fact that I was the fastest runner in school and could play nonstop on the playground for hours.

But hey, what did I know? I was just a first grader. I grew up in the 60s in a great big Irish Catholic family. I was the ninth of 11 children. And though by and large, we were one great big happy family, still triggers of anxiety were legion.

Oh no, Chris broke his leg skiing. Oh no, Paul just got drafted and might have to go to Vietnam. Oh no, Marge just broke up with her boyfriend.

[40 : 31] With that many kids in the mix, there was no shortage of anxious moments in our household. Lacking any sort of foundational assurance of salvation at that point in my life, the very thought of death terrorized me.

I recoiled at death's cold, empty finality, even at a young age. My greatest fear was that my parents or one of my siblings would die in a car crash.

So when anyone was out of an evening, I would lie awake in my bed at night, nervously waiting until everyone was safe at home. Although outwardly, I'm sure I seemed like an average kid, inwardly, anxiety was always gnawing at me.

This was my state until I went to college at the University of New Hampshire. There, by God's grace, a friend shared the good news of the gospel with me. And while my sin issue was paramount in my trusting in Jesus, I also gladly embraced the gospel because it addressed the root of my anxiety.

I can't tell you how understood and acknowledged I felt when as a new believer, I read these words from the book of Hebrews. Hebrews. Since the children, meaning us, have flesh and blood.

[41 : 49] He too, meaning Jesus, shared our humanity so that by his death, he might destroy him who holds the power of death.

That is the devil and free all those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. All their lives held in slavery by their fear of death. That was me.

Knowing that death had lost its sting went a long way towards me finally getting a floor under my anxiety. But alas, it was not a total victory. Anxiety still showed up in a lot of places.

One of those places it attacked was whenever I had to speak in front of people. Jerry Seinfeld famously joked about this fear. He pointed out the studies consistently show that speaking in front of a crowd is the number one fear of the average person.

The number two fear is death. Death is number two. This means, he quipped, that for the average person, if you have to be at a funeral, you'd rather be the one in the casket than the one delivering the eulogy.

[43 : 04] I vividly recall doing morning patient rounds in the hospital as a new physician assistant student and having to present the patient's conditions to the attending physician.

I marveled at my classmates who seemed to rattle off all the vital information so fluently. But I don't know whether to laugh or cry when I recall myself over prepared, fumbling with notes, dry mouth and stammering in a squeaky voice when it came my turn.

What a spectacle I must have been. But I took heart from the scriptures that reminded me that God had not given me a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self control.

And over and over again, I would take encouragement from Isaiah 41 10 that says, so do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. And so God gave me grace to push through my flops and failures over and over again until at last the fear that had me in its grip.

[44 : 15] Gradually lost its power. I know it may sound like such a dinky little thing, but as GK Chesterton once said, nothing compares to the pleasures of the poor.

When I could finally present patients on morning rounds without stammering and stuttering, I felt as triumphant as Rocky at the top of the flight of stairs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

God had turned the straw of my anxiety into the gold of his grace. And through that process, he had also strengthened my inner person. Finally, God used my experience with anxiety to allow me to be a channel of his blessing.

In my vocation as a physician assistant for the past 40 years, I encounter anxious patients every single day. Because of my own struggle, I think God has given me a little extra measure of compassion for those who are anxious, worried and fearful.

Just a few weeks ago, our department hired a new physician assistant named Adjua. Adjua is originally from Ghana. She came to my clinic to shadow me.

[45 : 22] I had barely met her and said hello when we had to see our first patient of the day. It turned out that the unfortunate man we were seeing had a health condition that had progressively stole more and more of his health away from him.

He was anxious, grieving and fearful. I don't pray with every patient I see, but toward the close of this visit, I strongly felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to pray for him.

But I hesitated because I wasn't sure how our new PA would react. But I decided, well, I'm going to pray anyway. So I asked the patient if I could pray for him, and he was only too happy about that.

As I put my hand on him and started to pray, I found out very quickly where Adjua stood. Because she immediately began backing me up with, Yes, Jesus, help him Lord.

Hail him Lord. Hail him Lord. Experiences like this remind me of 2 Corinthians 1, verses 3 and 4.

[46 : 26] Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Talk about paying it forward. I may not have won a complete victory over anxiety, but I can say that it doesn't dominate and control my life anymore. I can say that I've experienced firsthand that in all things God does work for the good of those who love him.

I always felt that anxiety was a cruel curse on my life. But now as I approach my 70th birthday, I look back on my life and see that God has transformed my anxiety and turned it into a blessing. As a youngster, it was the vehicle that the Holy Spirit used to bring me to faith in Christ. As a young man, it was the mountain that God used to strengthen me and mature me. As a more established person, it is the gift God has given me so I can be a channel of his blessing.

So in closing this morning, I would say if you have a thorn in the flesh, maybe not anxiety, but whatever it might be, and you're struggling, I exhort you to press on to trust God and not give up.

[47 : 46] I pray that you will affirm like Paul. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest on me.

In all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Praise the Lord. This isn't a problem.

Naomi's back is out. Hello, church. My name is Luke Batty and this is my wife, Naomi.

We've been coming to Trinity for nine years and in that time, we've had much to be thankful for, but we'd like to use this time to express thanksgiving for how the church has helped and supported us.

Galatians 6.2 says, We can't bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. And you can judge for yourself by the end of our testimony whether this church has lived up to that calling.

[49 : 01] We can start with last year when a catastrophic leak was discovered behind the wall of our kitchen sink, resulting in significant water damage and requiring us to leave our home while it was fixed.

Our insurance company only covered a three-week stay at a local hotel, but because of mold and asbestos, we were unable to return to our home while waiting for the asbestos removal.

What were we to do? We couldn't afford to continue staying at the hotel for the next few months, but we also couldn't stay in our home that not only didn't have a kitchen but was plagued with toxins.

Thankfully, we didn't have to discover because the church provided. First, Rob and Manois Dunlop just gave us their home to inhabit.

They gave us their home to inhabit with no strings attached, no requirement of payment of any kind, and allowed us to live there well beyond the original discussed timeframe, allowing our son, Cornelius, to be born and welcomed to a home rather than a hotel room.

[50 : 08] When they could no longer accommodate us, the church, through the DBF, funded our stay at a short-term rental in Worcester Square. I don't mean to imply that this time was easy.

It was challenging for our family to live, a family of seven, to live out of suitcases. But between the church's generosity and the time and care of members opening their home and providing meals, we were able to live for six months out of our home with very little financial difficulty and with moments of true joy and fellowship.

And for that, we are extremely grateful. Only the true love of Christ can explain this kind of generosity. But our thankfulness goes even farther back than last year.

As some of you may remember, Luke was diagnosed with a mitral valve prolapse that required surgery in the fall of 2021.

His surgery was scheduled just weeks before our third child was due. This time of uncertainty was a scary one for our family. But we were upheld and encouraged by the church's prayers and presence.

[51 : 14] Members of Trinity brought us meals and watched our children so I could visit Luke in the hospital. We felt God's presence and peace through the recovery because of you. But little did we know we would need the church even more the next year.

In the beginning of 2023, just one month after our fourth child was born, Luke suffered the first of two unexplained strokes, followed by months of hospital visits, medical anxiety, and even greater uncertainty.

Through it all, God remained faithful to us and Trinity remained faithful to that calling of bearing each other's burdens. Once again, we were held up in prayer, many friends helping with meals and babysitting, checking in and giving encouragement.

Our family could not have made it through that time without your love and support. But we're still not done. Going back even farther now to when we first arrived in New Haven, it was the summer of

2017.

We knew no one and were expecting our first child in just a few short months. Upon walking into Trinity, we felt immediately welcomed and very much at home. We were invited to services in small groups, brought in as family.

[52 : 24] And when the time came for us to have our daughter, while our family was 3,000 miles away in California, the church once again came to our aid with meals and handmade baby blankets, well wishes and words of encouragement for first time parents.

From the beginning, we have felt the love of God from this local body. Given that history, you can imagine that our first step when my contract at my current job was expiring, was to ask the church for prayer for our next steps.

I began applying to teaching jobs first in Connecticut and then in other parts of the country where we had connections. And through that process, the Lord provided an excellent opportunity to teach as an assistant professor at a Baptist university in Dallas, Texas.

And so it's with great sadness that we share that we'll be leaving Trinity in July. Our sadness is profound because of the need to leave the wonderful family of the family of the family.

The wonderful family we have found here at Trinity Baptist Church. You know, you don't, like Brandon was saying, you don't miss people unless there's been a lot of love.

[53 : 33] And God has really provided any maturity, spiritual growth and gifts of the Spirit that we have displayed here through our time of Trinity. We merely think as a response to the nurture, training, equipping and counseling we've received from this local body of Christ.

And though we have to say goodbye, we are ultimately thankful knowing that in only a little while we will all be together and we'll never have to say goodbye again.

Thank you. Amen.

Let's go to the Lord in prayer. Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

We have heard from our brothers and sisters in Christ of your goodness, your steadfast love that endures forever, in good times and in bad.

[54 : 42] Triune God, how amazed we are that in this vast universe so full of stars and planets, many that we will never discover or fathom, that you have created us, human beings in your image, and that you have demonstrated your care for us time and time again.

What is man that you are mindful of him, the psalmist declares. Oh, how wonderful it is to know that you, our God, know us, love us, and sustain us.

And wonder of wonders, you took on our humanity, our flesh, when you, God the Son, became incarnate and walked among us. Surely none of our sorrows or temptations or trials or fears are foreign to you, incarnate God.

So, Lord Jesus, we rest and we rejoice in your perfect high priestly ministry, sympathizing with all our weaknesses and interceding forevermore at the right hand of the Father.

God, this morning we take a moment to pause and consider our own lives before your loving gaze. It's often easy to see our mistakes and our sins and our failures.

[55 : 58] And we do offer these over to you in your grace, asking to cover our sins with your forgiveness that you willingly purchased for us at the cross. But God, as the old spiritual masters used to say, for every one look we take at ourselves, we want to take ten looks at Christ our Lord.

Show us today, give us eyes to see, those moments of your goodness in each of our particular stories. The answered prayers, the reconciled relationships, the simple joys of food and friendship and fellowship.

Every good and perfect gift comes down from you, Father of lights. Oh, Holy Spirit, enlighten the eyes of our hearts to see the daily mercies that constantly flow from the throne of your grace.

And Father, as the hymn says, tune our hearts to sing your praise. Let the experience of your goodness be consummated in the praise that we render you. And would our church be a place where there's no shortage of praise?

And would our praise give us all the more reason to cast our cares upon you in prayer? Make us a praising and a praying church, Father.

[57 : 11] Like the widow in your parable, Jesus, would we not tire to bring our request to you, knowing that in your perfect wisdom and perfect timing you will answer in the way that is for our ultimate good.

And we join our prayers today with your church across the world and pray that most ancient of prayers. Come, Lord Jesus. Come and make all things new.

Come and finish your new creation. Come and be King of kings and Lord of lords over all. In your mighty name we pray. Amen. Friends, one of the wonders of the gospel is that Jesus, the righteous one, is a friend of sinners.

That is our hope. That know how great our sin, he befriends us, forgives us, and makes us his own. So let's stand and sing what a friend we have in Jesus. What a friend, Jesus, what a friend for sinners as we prepare for the sermon.

Jesus, Lord, the love of my soul.

[58 : 21] Friends may fail me, falls that sail me, he my Savior makes me whole.

Hallelujah, what a friend.

Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

Jesus, what a strength and weakness. He is with me, I myself and then.

Tempted, troubled and sometimes failing. He is with me, my strength, my victories win.

[59 : 32] Hallelujah, what a strength and weakness. Hallelujah, what a Savior. Hallelujah, what a friend.

Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

Jesus, what a help in sorrow Let all the billows o'er me roll Even when my heart is breaking He, my comfort, helps my soul Hallelujah, what a Savior Hallelujah, what a friend Saving, helping, keeping, loving He is with me to the end Jesus, what a guide and keeper Wild attempts, still, still is high Storms about me, none more takes me He, my pilot, hears my cry Hallelujah, what a Savior Hallelujah, what a friend Saving, helping, keeping, loving He is with me to the end Jesus, I do not receive Him More than all in Him I find He has granted me forgiveness I am His and He is mine Hallelujah, what a Savior Hallelujah, what a friend Saving, helping, keeping, loving He is with me to the end Hallelujah, what a Savior Hallelujah, what a Savior Well, friends, it's such a blessing

[63 : 01] Is it not to hear these testimonies And to think about the fact that God In each of our lives is painting a picture And each painting has many, many brushstrokes And that brushstrokes creates a portrait Of God's work in our lives Thank you for those of you who shared this morning What a blessing it is to hear I just want to reflect briefly, I promise you On a question of what would you want the brushstrokes Of your life to be Of your portrait As you seek God To know Him And to love Him I want to look briefly At Colossians chapter 1 Verses 9 through 12 To see what God Would have us pray for

In our own lives To be a part of our portrait So let's read this together Colossians chapter 1 Verses 9 through 12 And so from the day we heard We have not ceased to pray for you Asking that you may be filled With the knowledge of His will In all spiritual wisdom and understanding So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord Fully pleasing to Him Bearing fruit in every good work And increasing in the knowledge of God May you be strengthened with all power According to His glorious might For all endurance and patience With joy Giving thanks to the Father Who has qualified you To share in the inheritance Of the saints in light He has delivered us From the domain of darkness And transferred us To the kingdom of His beloved Son In whom we have redemption The forgiveness of sins Friends, briefly

There are four things That I want to encourage us To pray for The first is that we might live a life Worthy of the Lord Pleasing to Him And bearing good fruit That our lives might be a place Where when our neighbors And our family And our co-workers See our lives They see God at work in us This is not an exhortation For performance So that we might be seen by others But it is a prayer A desire That God might so work in us That He would produce this fruit Like a tree Produces fruit naturally In a healthy way So may we produce fruit In our lives That shows others What an amazing God We serve This is the second thing That Paul prays for

The Colossians And for us That we might increasingly Know God More and more And this knowledge is Many of you know this It's not merely knowing about God Learning facts and information That's good and important And right and necessary But it's actually also About knowing God In a relational sense In the way that I get To know my friend Who when I first met them I knew nothing about them But as I've grown I not only know About their hometown And what their preferences are And what movies they like But I know their character And we have a relationship Of trust And love that grows So too Even more so With God God wants us To not nearly know about Him But to know Him In this ever increasing Deepening relationship Of trust And love As we

meditate on His Word As we go to Him

In prayer As we worship Him Regularly May our lives have This portrait as well That not only would we Bear fruit But that we would know God Increasingly I'm so thankful For the saints among us Who have been doing this Not just for five years Or ten years Or twenty years But for forty years Or fifty years Or sixty years We have so much To learn from them And I'm encouraged To see them Pressing on To know God Still more Thirdly Paul encourages us That we would have Endurance In our faith Through challenges And trials We often pray For deliverance And this is right Because we serve a God Who does deliver us And so God does provide In miraculous ways And God does meet us In times of need In provision Completely unlooked for And this is true

[68 : 11] And yet we also know That God often Provides for us In ways that we Didn't look for And sometimes God provides for us In time frames That we didn't prefer That's a nice way Of saying it Right?

God's provision Is not always Instantaneous Or complete And the life of faith Is not a sprint But a marathon But knowing that God Is with us Through it God gives us The ability To be those Whose portraits Are filled with Strengthened And endured With joy Because God Has proven Himself faithful To us Through it all And of course As George So rightly said God does this So that It might be seen That God Is at work in us Because if He Just simply Made our lives easy It'd be very easy For us to think Our lives are just Easy And God would be Removed from the picture But through the trials We face God shows His power In our weakness What a glorious thing It is And then the fourth thing That Paul Enjoins And prays for here

And pray Would be my prayer For us Is that we would Live lives Of daily gratitude For our salvation Because that's how Paul ends this passage Right And so often We overlook The basic things In life We overlook The fact that We have air To breathe And we have Roofs over our Hands Or all the other Things And just like Physically In the way That God has Provided for us So much Though we tend To focus On the things We lack But He's Provided for us So much How much more So spiritually We think of How much more We want But can we Look back And see how much We already have In Christ That He has Delivered us From the Kingdom of Darkness And into the Kingdom Of His Beloved Son In whom We have Redemption The forgiveness Of sins The gospel Is that we Are lost In our sin And under God's Condemnation And God

Has come And rescued Us from That Through Christ Because of His death On the cross And the Resurrection So that We might Be forgiven Of our sins So that We might Be adopted As sons And daughters Of God So that We might Have a hope Of eternity Oh friends Daily Daily May we Add brushstrokes Of thanksgiving And gratitude And praise To God That the joy Of our salvation May be daily In our lives A brief Encouragement From Paul For us This morning And it Leads us To baptism Because this Morning We're going To have A baptism Guy Is going To come Guy Why don't You come On up While I Talk about A little Bit Guy Is going To come Up And be Baptized This morning Right And baptism Was instituted By God To celebrate That great Salvation Come on Up Yeah Come on You got To stand With me For a minute While I Talk Right It was Instituted By Jesus In the Great commission Matthew 28 He said Go and Make disciples Baptizing them Right It's a Public profession Of faith That The one Being baptized Guy Is going To testify That he Is trusted In Christ For his Salvation And I Just want To encourage You If you're Here this Morning And you're Trusting In Christ And you Haven't Been Baptized Come Talk To us We'd Love To celebrate This With you We'd Love To help You Follow Through With this Command That God Has given Us Baptism In our Understanding Is rude One of the Key passages Is Romans 6 3 And 4 Do you Not know That all Of us Who have Been Baptized Into Christ Jesus Were Baptized Into His Death We Were Buried Therefore With Him By Baptism Into Death In Order That Just as Christ Was raised From The Dead By the Glory Of The Father We Too Might Walk In The Newness Of Life

[72 : 30] That Is By Faith In Jesus We Are Joined With Christ And What We Picture In Baptism Is This Death To Sin And To The Old Self And Rising To A New Life That God Is Giving Us In Jesus Christ It Is A Beautiful Thing That We Do When We Baptize People That Pictures This Internal!

Already Done In Believers Guy Has Met With The Elders We Happily And Joyfully Affirm His Profession Of Faith This Morning And Are Happy To Celebrate With You So We Are Going To Invite Guy To Come And Share Briefly His Testimony And Then We Will Move Ahead With Baptism So Hey Everybody It's Great To See So Many Familiar Faces And Also So Many New People That I Haven't Met Yet Here And I'm Really Grateful To Be Both Being Baptized And To Also Be Introducing Myself To My New Church Family My Name Is Guy I Am A First Year Student At Yale

Law School I'm Originally From Park City Utah And I've Been Coming Here To Trinity Baptist And Although Those Experiences Were Always Positive I Felt No Urgency To Pursue My Faith More Seriously God Continued To Bless Me With Academic And Professional Success Which At The Time I Attributed To My Own Talents And To My Work Ethic My Work Ethic Unsurprisingly The Trajectory Of My Life Cannot Be Described As A Continuous Incline With Each Season Being Better Than The Last During The Early 2020s For Reasons Both Related And Unrelated To The Pandemic My Plans Were Destabilized And Derailed I Don't Want To Be Over Dramatic Or Anything My Life Wasn't Really Cast Into Turmoil But All The Projects I Work On Seemed To Come To Dead Ends And I Was Not Hitting Life's Benchmarks That I Had Set For Myself And Really I Did Not Have A Strong Sense Of How To Move Forward And At The Core Of All This I Was Really Missing A Sense Of Purpose And As To

Find Answers To My Questions Solutions To My Problems Or Just Some Gust Of Inspiration To Get Me Out Of Those Doldrums Eventually I Began Volunteering At Church Services Joining Small Groups And Just Trying My Best To Figure Out What It Meant To Live A Christ Centered Life Embedding Myself In The Church Community Was Definitely A Positive Step And I Felt A Revive Sense Of Purpose Centering My Life Around Serving God Rather Than Serving Myself During This Time I Re-familiarized Myself With The Teachings Of The Church I Became And Continued To Be Eternally Grateful That God Graciously Offered To Save Me Even Though I Am A Sinner Who Continuously Fails To Measure Up To The Standards By Which Salvation Can Be Earned But I Still Wrestled With Some Aspects Of Christianity Particularly Determining What It Means To Truly Have Faith For Reasons And Through Mechanisms That We May Never Be Revealed To Us Only Through Faith In Christ's Death And Resurrection May We Avail Ourselves Of God's Gift Of Grace For

Many Years I Thought And I Felt As Though I Had Faith In Christ But I Was Troubled By The Fact That I Could Never Be Certain Even If I Was Confident That The Story Presented In The Bible Was True No Rational Line Of Research Or Argumentation Could Eliminate All Doubt And If There Was Some Doubt In My Mind Could I Truly Say That I Had Faith Accordingly I Worry Dreadfully That I Would Be Among Those Who Shouted Lord Lord But Would Never Enter The Kingdom I Wanted To Enter The If An Outcome Is Certain No Faith Is Needed To Hold A Steadfast Belief In Its Occurring Only In The Face Of Some Actual Uncertainty Can One Be Said To Have Faith I Have Accepted The Fact That Some Doubts Will Linger But I Have Seen These Doubts Shrink As I Continue To Grow As A Christian The More Actively I Pursue My Faith The More Clearly I Can See God Working In My Life And As I

[77 : 46] Reflect On The Last Several Years It Is Obvious That God Has Been Shepherding Me Throughout This Period So Although I Have Been A Follower Of Christ For Some Time Now After Grappling With These Questions I Thank You I'm Going To Give You Can You Still Hear Me All Right So Guy It's Great To Hear God's Work In Your Life We Ask These Few Formal Questions Do You Confess That You Have Turned From Sin And Placed Your Faith In Jesus Christ As You Are And The Only Savior And Lord I Do And Do You Promise Depending On God's Grace To Serve Christ Faithfully In The Fellowship Of The Church For The Rest

Of Your Life And As You're Coming Into Membership Here Do You Commit To Love And Serve This Local Body Of Christ Trinity Baptist Church For As Long As The Lord Has You Here And For The Trinity Members Here We Want To Ask You Do You Do You!

To Love And Serve Him Baptism The Worship Team Is Going To Come On Up And Lead Us In A Song As We Prepare For The Baptism Let Me Invite You To Stand If You Are Able As We Sing Together Before

The Throne Of God Above I Have A Strong And Perfect Plead The Great High Priest Whose Name Is Love Whoever Lives And Pleads For Me My Name Is Graven On His End My Name Is Written On His Heart I Know The Wall In Heaven He Stand No Tongue Can Deep Upon No Tongue Can Bend Me Dance Deep On When Satan Tempts me To Despair And Tells me Of The Guilt Within Upward I Look And

See Him There Who Made An End To All My Sin Because A Sinless Saviour Died My Simple Soul Is Counted Three For God The Justice Satisfied To Look On Him And Pardon Me To Look On Him And Pardon Me Come on up You may be seated Well friends What a great Savior we Have Who Looks Who Stands In Our Place So That God Looks At Him And Pardons Us And This Is What We Celebrate For You Now Guy So

[82 : 04] In The Name Of The Father And The Son And The Holy Spirit I Baptize You My My
Thank you.

Well, friends, let me invite you to stand again, if you're able, as we conclude our service with a song. Behold in there the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness, the great unchangeable I am, the King of glory and of grace.

One death himself, I cannot die. My soul is purchased with his blood. My life is headed, Christ on high.

With Christ my Savior and my God. With Christ my Savior and my God.

Oh, friends, what a great joy it is to celebrate.

[83 : 53] We think of the fact that heaven celebrates with those who rejoice. And one who is lost is now found. I want to remind you, just a couple of announcements next week.

Book table, so don't forget about that. Sign up for the men's hike if you can. We hope you'll stick around for fellowship, either up here or downstairs for the coffee hour. And as Guy gets dressed and come out, maybe you can also greet him and just encourage him and welcome him.

Let me now send you out with a benediction. May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

And all God's people said, Amen. Amen. Go in peace. Amen.

Thank you.