TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN

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Living with Purpose, Giving with Gratitude: Stewardship Season 2026

25 October 2026 • 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." – Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39

Welcome and Announcements

Holy Rehearsal

Prelude "The Fifers" Dandrieu

Choral Introit "Great Is the Lord" Smith and Smith

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

What does it mean to be holy?

"You shall be holy," says the Lord, "for I am holy."

Yes, but what does it *mean* to be holy?

WEST SIDE: **Don't pervert justice.** EAST SIDE: **Show no favoritism.**
WEST: **Judge on the basis of what is right.** EAST: **Don't spread gossip.**
WEST: **Share no rumors.** EAST: **Be honest with your neighbor.**
WEST: **Don't seek revenge.** EAST: **Carry no grudges.**
WEST: **Love your neighbor as yourself.**

So this is what it means to be holy?

Yes, *this* is what it means to be holy!

***Hymn 1** "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" NICAEA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O Lord our God, You call us to be holy. Though it's only four letters long, "holy" feels too heavy to carry. So you lay it out for us in terms we can understand: "Don't pervert justice." "Show no favoritism." "Be honest." "Don't carry a grudge." "Love your neighbor as yourself." These things we can do . . . except when we don't. So forgive our failures, God, and don't give up on us. Lead us, guide us, shape us, and mold us – until we, like you, are holy. Amen.

Silent Prayer and Assurance of Pardon

***Response 709** "God, We Honor You" ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

***Passing of the Peace**

Old Testament Lesson: "You shall be holy . . ." Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Choral Anthem "O Lord, My God, You Are My Refuge" J. S. Bach

A Prayer for Children

Gospel Lesson: The Greatest Commandment Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon *Not Optional* Dwight Christenbury

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

With the whole church, we affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, and empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere, we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation, we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life and the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world. Amen.

***Hymn 62** "Love the Lord Your God" GREAT COMMANDMENT

Minute for Stewardship Leslie Nissen

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer (*Glory to God, p. 35*)

Offering Gifts to Trinity and the Five Cents a Meal Offering

***Hymn 771** "What Is the World Like" NEW WORLD

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Young

***** *Please stand, in body or spirit.*

The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession are based on Leviticus 19 and Matthew 22. The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Iona Abbey Worship Book* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2017), p. 65.

LITURGIST: Steve Culp
CHOIR SECTION LEADERS: Claire Crook, Eric McAnallen, Jonathan Thomas
PRODUCTION CREW: Brandon Haskins, Mary Haskins, Duane Johnson, Jim Kisner, Russ Russell, Conrad Shannon, Jim Smelker, Paul Soltesz
FLOWERS: Today's flowers are given by John and Pam Villanti in loving memory of Fae Edmond.
LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: 152

This congregation welcomes you without regard to race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, education, economic circumstance, your place of origin or any other issue that divides God's family. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors wide open.

Calendar for the Week of October 25 – November 1, 2026

TODAY (October 25)
- **8:30 Worship Service**
- 9:45 Learning Hour Classes
- 10:30 Choir Rehearsal
- **11:00 Worship Service**
- 12:30-4:30 Family Halloween Fun
- 5:00 ManKind Project

MONDAY (October 26)
- 9:00 Finance Team
- 2:00 Personnel Ministry
- 3:30 Tai Chi (private lessons)
- 4:00 Tai Chi

TUESDAY (October 27)
- PRESBYTERY MEETING (GASTONIA)
- 10:00 Coffee Group (at Dandelion)
- 2:30 Origami Group
- 5:30 Circles Henderson County
- 6:30 Deborah Circle

WEDNESDAY (October 28)
- 10:00 Friends in Christ
- 5:30 Wednesday Night Live Dinner
- 6:00 PFLAG Board Meeting
- 6:30 WNL: Veterans' Healing Farm
- 7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY (October 29)
- 9:00 a.m.: Musicke Antiqua Rehearsal
- 3:30 p.m.: Tai Chi (private lessons)
- 4:00 p.m.: Tai Chi

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Nov. 1)
- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
- **8:30 a.m.: Worship Service**
- 9:45 a.m.: Learning Hour Classes
- 10:30 a.m.: Choir Rehearsal
- **11:00 a.m.: Worship Service**
- 5:00 ManKind Project

Church Staff and Leadership

David Garnett, Transitional Pastor
david@trinitypresnc.org

Dwight Christenbury, Associate Pastor
dwight@trinitypresnc.org

Stephen Klein, Organist
Eric McAnallen, Choir Director
Vickie Hugger, Interim Office Manager
Jim Kisner, Maintenance Facilitator
Bob Forsythe and Bev Luzadder, Treasurers
Diane Bowers, Financial Secretary
Angela Kuykendoll, Bookkeeper

Reminder: We return to Standard Time next Sunday, November 1. If you have clocks or watches that don't set themselves, remember to "fall back"!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Hospital: Michael Swafford. *Rehab/Nursing*: Judi Johnson, Harry Petersen, Alice McCullough, Neena Haskins (Sunnybrook), Sue Robinson (Life Care), Don Widmayer, Ruth Mills (CV Care Center), Nancy Twitchen, Jack Caylor (HHR), Nell Payne (Brooks-Howell). *Home*: Raymond Adams, Jr. (Julie Adams' father), Penny Honker, Carolyn Cole, Brenda Nelson, Laura Snead French (Charlie Snead's daughter), Sarah Ogide (John Wright's daughter), Marty Zigovsky, Barbara Pickwoad, Irene Lunsford, Bob Miles, Donnie Thompson (Kuykendoll family), T. K. Owens, Declan and Katriel Sander as they move toward final exams. *Others*: Global ministry partners, including our sister congregation in Guatemala, Iglesia Fuente de Vida.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Family Halloween Fun Today! Families with children (and the young at heart) are invited to an afternoon of spooky fun:

- *12:30-1:30 Potluck Lunch*: Bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- *1:30-2:30 Pumpkin Carving*: BYOP.
- *2:30-4:30 Trunk or Treat*: Come in costume, if you wish, and follow the Trunk-or-Treat Trail through the church yard.

A NOTE ABOUT PARKING: Please park in the front parking lots and walk to the back of the church unless you are a Trunk-or-Treat volunteer. Thank you!

Wednesday Night Live, Oct. 28: Veterans Healing Farm. Learn about the help they provide to local veterans and their families. Diner at 5:30, presentation at 6:30. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office by Monday morning.

SCAM ALERT! Have you ever gotten an email or text that seemed odd or alarming? Maybe seemingly from your church or a friend? Come to "Santa Is Coming and So Are the Scams" to learn from local police how to recognize and defend against scams: Sunday, Nov. 8, 9:45-10:45 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

SPECIAL NOTICES

A note from the Matthew 25 Ministry. The current flag in front of the church reminds us all to vote. "It doesn't matter how strong your opinions are. If you don't use your power for positive change, you are indeed part of the problem" (Coretta Scott King).

"Living with Purpose, Giving with Gratitude." We're in the midst of our annual stewardship campaign. Pledge cards are available in the narthex, and Stewardship Dedication Sunday will be Nov. 8. Please prayerfully consider how you might give of your time, talent, and treasure for 2027.

Write for the Advent Devotional Guide: *And on Earth Peace*. Please see the signup table in the narthex; Dwight Christenbury will be happy to answer any questions.

The Mitten Tree is Coming! Help us share the warmth of Christmas with children in our community! Our Mitten Tree will soon be ready for donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats, which will go to Interfaith Assistance Ministry for distribution. To learn more, call Kathy Steinbaugh: 908 783-7414.