



Trinity United Church
41 Market St N, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7
613-283-4444 or www.trinityunitedsf.ca



March 9. 2025
First Sunday of Lent
Selfless Love



Image: Rev. Takouhi – August 24, 2024 – Cataraqui Trail - Portland

***(Remember to pass this bulletin to someone else
You never know how you will Bless them)***

Welcome:

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive, Accessible and
an Affirming Congregation

† Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through
Thursday - (Closed on Statutory Holidays)

† Please remember that **Rev. Takouhi's weekend** is Monday and
Tuesday. If Monday is a Statutory Holiday, the weekend includes
Wednesday.

†If you wish to meet with **Rev. Takouhi** please contact her directly: **613-777-0880** – revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca



*Welcome, as we gather for worship this Sunday morning. If you are a visitor or a newcomer to this Community of Faith, either in person or virtually, we extend a warm welcome. May you come in as a stranger but depart knowing you are part of the family. **Welcome Home!***

WE GATHER AS AN LENTEN PEOPLE

Land Acknowledgement

Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

Introit: *"Tree Of Life And Awesome Mystery"*

Voices United # 121 vs. 1 & 3 plus Lent 1

Spiritual Focus:

"Lent: The Path Of Love..."

Lighting the Lenten & Christ Candle



Call to Worship (Responsive): *Deut. 26:7, 8; Ps. 91:1, 9, 15–16*

One: The God of our ancestors heard our cries

and saw our oppression when we were slaves in Egypt.

**All: God brought us out with a mighty hand and an
outstretched arm, with signs and wonders
God brought us through the wilderness.**

One: The Lord, our shelter, our refuge, our dwelling place, says,

**All: "When my people call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble;
I will show them my salvation."**

(Please stand as able)

Hymn of Awe & Wonder: Voices United #111

"As the Sun with Longer Journey"

- 1 As the sun with longer journey
 melts the winter's snow and ice,
 with its slowly growing radiance
 warms the seed beneath the earth,
 may the sun of Christ's uprising
 gently bring our hearts to life.
- 2 Through the days of waiting, watching
 in the desert of our sin,
 searching on the far horizon
 for a sign of cloud or wind,
 we await the healing waters
 of our Saviour's victory.
- 3 Praise be given to the Maker
 of the seasons' yearly round:
 to the Speaker through the Spoken
 in their living Breath of love
 as the ever turning seasons
 roll to their eternal rest.

(Please be seated)

Opening Prayer (in unison): Ps. 91:1; Luke 4:2, 12; Deut. 26:9; Rom. 10:12–13

God Most High, thank you for signs of your Power and Grace, shown to us even in the wilderness. Give us courage to stand firm in your Word in every time of trial and testing, that we may be at Peace, no matter where we are found. We pray Humbly and Sincerely. **Amen.**

(Please remain seated)

Hymn of Welcome: More Voices # 18

"Lord Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.



**WE OFFICIALLY WELCOME NEW FAMILY MEMBERS
TO THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

+ Cory Matthew Agnew
(By Profession of Faith)

+ Daisy May Maloney
(By Confirmation of Faith - Baptized at Trinity United)

+ Dorothy Rebecca "Becky" DeGroot
(By Profession of Faith – Transfer, Little Britain United Church)

Statement of Purpose

One: The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by the Holy Spirit... of the church of Jesus Christ.

Presentation

Commitment of New Members

Congregational Commitment

One: Dear friends... our love, care and support.

**All: As your brothers and sisters in Christ,
we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.
We pledge to you our love, care and our support.
With God's help, we will together live out the
mission and ministry of Jesus.**

One: Together as one family let us stand, as able and
say together our corporate profession of faith.

A New Creed¹ (All):

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,



¹ A New Creed is a brief and well-loved affirmation of faith used widely in our worship (1968; rev. 1980, 1995).

to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Presentation of Certificate

Welcome To Your Church Family



Song of Celebration Voices United # 958

"Halle, Halle, Halle" (x 2)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! (Hallelujah!)
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Scripture:

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,
All: our ears and hearts are open.

Hebrew Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (NRSV)

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is

giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Reader: Here ends today's reading.

For the Sacred Story is God's story,

All: for the Sacred Story is our story,

Reader: for the Sacred Story is our source and inspiration.

All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation: "*Pi's Lullaby*" (**Danna**)

Life Lesson: "*Endless Love: Imitators of God...*"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

(Please stand as able)

Hymn of Assurance: Voices United #115

"Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"

- 1 Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
"Use your power," the tempter tells him;
"turn these barren rocks to bread!"
"Not alone by bread," he answers,
"can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!"

- 2 Jesus, temped at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
"Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!"
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
"God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.

3 Jesus, temped on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
"Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!"
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
"God, alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!"

4 When we face temptation's power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.

(Please be seated)

GOD'S BANQUET... OUR PARTICIPATION...

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: Holy God of Endless Love, we offer you thanks for the work you have done in our world and kept us close to your heart over and over again. We praise you for the gift of Jesus, the Light of the World, who gave sight to the blind and set prisoners free. We offer you thanks for all who followed The Way and carried the Light of Christ. May we carry the light for the future generations. May all Glory be to You Alone, even when we are found in the wilderness. May Your Light be evident to us and enriching us with faith, hope and love.

ALL: Grateful we are for the world we know, and the universe beyond our knowing. We praise you, for the entrance of Jesus in our midst whom eternity cannot contain.

One: For His life which informs our living, for His compassion which changes our hearts, for His clear speaking, His innocent suffering, His fearless dying, His rising in our hearts once again and breathing forgiveness, we praise you and follow in His footsteps.

All: He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us his friends, now meets us in this cup.

One: So take this bread and this wine.

In them the Holy God Comes to us,
so that we may come Wholly to God.

And we pray together and we say the words Jesus taught his followers: "Our Father..."

Sharing of the Elements – Served

Prayer After Communion (All):

Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal.

Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity.
Thank you for this day in which we have the freedom to celebrate
your love and share this meal. We humbly Pray. **Amen**

(Please stand as able)

Hymn of Assurance: More Voices #82

"Bathe Me In Your Light, O God"

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

(Please be seated)

The Work of God through Trinity United Church **Mission Story Time**

March 14 is PIE Day, and in church circles it has nothing to do with math. "PIE" is short for "public, intentional, and explicit"—the standards we hold ourselves to when we seek to live into being affirming, welcoming, and inclusive people and communities.

PIE Day was co-founded by Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections. Every year, Affirm United invites the church to celebrate the full inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in faith communities and beyond. The day also reminds and challenges us to continue widening our welcome to embody love and celebrate gender and sexual diversity in all its forms. It's critical that we do. Gender identity and sexual orientation continue to be used to justify serious human rights violations around the world. Same-sex sexual activity is a crime in 71 countries; in 11 of these the death penalty is at least a possibility. Statistics Canada's recently released [data on police-reported hate crimes \(opens in a new tab\)](#) reveals a significant increase in hate crimes targeting individuals based on their sexual orientation. These crimes increased by 69% in 2023, up from 3% in 2020, 70% in 2021 and 16% in 2022. Based on this data, this is an increase of 225% in the past five years (2019–2023).

Your gifts through Mission and Service sustain life-transforming advocacy and education work, including supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ refugees fleeing for their lives and providing community awareness education, human rights programs, and safe spaces. This work is vitally important. For some, it means the difference between life and death.

Thank you for giving through [Mission and Service](#). God's compassionate love knows no boundaries. Your generosity shows ours doesn't either.

Our Offerings – Supporting God’s Ministries:

Mindful of the abundance we have received from God, we offer ourselves and our gifts to the world that God Loves so much. For all those joining us virtually, on YouTube or Cogeco YourTV please go to our website and find out the many ways you may contribute and partner with us in carrying the Work of Jesus... **“Our offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary and aren’t passed hand to hand since COVID and they aren’t brought forward.”**



Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (in unison):

Gracious and Generous God, we are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance. Thank you for food that sustains us on our journey. Thank you for the church family that sustains us on our journey with your Spirit. Most of ALL, thank you for giving us your endless love freely. We pray humbly in the name of our friend and example, Jesus. **Amen.**

**GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD
TO BE THE CHURCH**

(Please stand as able)

Hymn of Going Forth: Voices United #114

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

- 1 Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

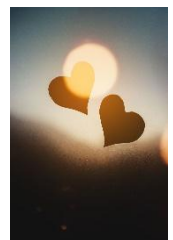
- 2 Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about your way;
stones your pillow, earth your bed.
- 3 Shall not we your trial share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?
- 4 If temptations, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
you their vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.
- 5 Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side;
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

(Please be seated)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: : *"This Little Light of Mine"* **(Traditional)**



Announcements

Please join us for Social Time after Worship in the Fellowship Hall – If you wish to volunteer to help with Social time, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Individuals or groups are invited to sign-up.

Please remember Smiths Falls Community Food Bank in Your Generosity – Your Donations are appreciated immensely.

Offering Options

Trinity has several ways in which to offer our financial gifts for the life and work of the church, by...

- E-transfers to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca
- delivery to church office
- through Trinity's website DONATE button
- and by PAR

Our offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary and aren't passed hand to hand since COVID and they aren't brought forward.

Trinity United Church endeavours to provide a scent free environment for those who are sensitive to fragrances.

Thank you for your consideration.



A note from the Property Team

Note that if you have any custodial/maintenance issues regarding the building, please contact **John Quinn**, who will now be the liaison to call in order to solve property issues. He can be reached at 613-206-1795.

Rainbow 101 - PIE Day – March 14th at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity United. Public Intentional and Explicit Inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ People. The PIE Day theme for this year is **Sing Out Loud** from Affirming Connections - we will read, sing, and play the winning song. Angela Pahlow's "Okay with Me" and we will assemble a playlist of Queer artists and play a game of Trivia. We will play trivia while we eat... PIE. Please bring a "pie" such as Pizza Pie, Shepherd's Pie, any kind of pie and of course dessert pie. If the weather permits, we could gather on the front sidewalk with flags and banners playing music, making some noise. Everyone is welcome!

UCW Fundraiser – Sunday, March 16th – Following the morning worship service there will be a fundraiser lunch which will include soup, bread, cheese and cupcakes. This is a freewill offering event with funds raised going to UCW. All are invited!

Global Recycle Awareness Day – March 18th

Let's all do our part and recycle more, waste less and help the earth! See attached insert for more information and how you can make a difference!

New to You Sale – Saturday, April 12th – 8:00 am to 1:00 p.m.

Looking for donations of clothing, books, shoes, purses, jewellery, trinkets, glassware, linens, puzzles, games, etc. No furniture or large items. Please submit your items to the stage in the Church Hall, preferably during office hours, but if you need another time, please call the office to arrange. Many thanks!!

This Week at Trinity...

Monday, March 10 – Office Chair Yoga	9 am – 1pm 11:00am – 12:00pm
Tuesday, March 11 – Office	9am – 1pm
Wednesday, March 12 - Office Bible Study – All Are Welcome	9 am – 1pm 9:30am – Downstairs Parlor
Thursday, March 13 - Office	9 am – 1pm
Friday, March 14 Rainbow 101- PIE DAY	Office Closed 6:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall
Saturday, March 15	Office Closed
Sunday, March 16 Worship Celebration	Office Closed 10:30 a.m. Leader: Rev. Takouhi