

**✦ 4th Sunday after Epiphany ✦**  
**February 3, 2019 10:00 A.M.**

**GATHERING IN WORSHIP**

*Please use the time during the prelude for quiet meditation to prepare yourself for worship.*

**◆Prelude**

**◆Call to Worship (Responsively)**

Pastor: God has abundantly cast God's seeds of love and hope upon us.

**People: May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of hope and peace.**

Pastor: Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.

**People: Let us sing songs of joy to God.**

Pastor: Hallelujah!

**People: Hallelujah!**

**◆Hymn of Praise** (BH #654) *Come, You Thankful People, Come*  
(vs. 1,3,4)

**◆Invocation**

**The Lord's Prayer (forgive us our sins...)**

**Mission Moment:** Camp Sunday

**Beth Fredrickson  
Emma Mueller**

**WORD**

**Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 6:8-13

Matthew 13:3-23

**◆Gloria Patri** (BH #109)

**Pastoral Prayer**

**◆Hymn of Preparation** (BH #345) *Lord, I Want to be a Christian*  
(vs. 1,2,4)

**Message**

**"Kingdom Soil"**  
**Pastor Alicia Reese**

**RESPONSE**

**◆Hymn of Response** (BH #367) *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks. We confess that our hearts may need tilling and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion. We confess when life makes us hard and resistant like a well-trodden path where old habits, old systems and old patterns of thinking keep your message from growing. We confess when we become so immersed in the short-lived, shallow, rock-hiding soil of the moment where Your life too easily gets blown away by the wind. We confess when our fears, insecurities, desires and self-absorption tangle like thorns around Your grace and choke it into silence. Forgive us, O God, for the ways in which we have failed to be fertile ground.

(Silent Reflection)

**Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)**

The Divine Gardener tends to us in steadfast love, unending mercies, and eternal faithfulness; He cultivates true friendship with us through boundless forgiveness. In Christ, this faithful love is planted in our hearts. The God of steadfast love, changes bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy. The God of steadfast love, changes the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy. The God of steadfast love changes the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy. Gathered as a community of believers, our family of faith, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we can now produce forgiveness for each other as we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

**Passing of the Peace**

**Life Together**

**Offering**

Offertory *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

◆ *Doxology*

◆ Prayer of Dedication

## Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

- ◆ Affirmation of Faith (BH #878)
- ◆ Words of Institution
- ◆ Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

### SENDING

◆ **Hymn of Dismissal** (BH #612) *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*  
(vs. 1,2,4)

◆ **Benediction**

**Postlude**

◆ **Indicates those who are able should stand.**

### NOTES OF INTEREST

Childcare is offered for infants and younger children in the church nursery. If you need directions feel free to ask an usher for assistance.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Svea Agner, Bernie Bara (Lorraine Weszely's brother), Marjorie Cassady, Lori Cavallone, Ember Lou Eigenbauer Diana Eigenbauer's great-granddaughter), Chloe Johnson, Lorraine Sorensen, Doris Wallace.

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Rev. Mark Westlind.....	Senior Pastor
Pastor Alicia Reese.....	Associate Pastor
Stuart Seale .....	Director of Music and Worship
Betty Aardema and Nate Van Der Male.....	Organists
Christina Palazzolo.....	Director, Noah's Ark Preschool
Karen Christakos.....	Church Secretary
Joe Michalowicz.....	Custodian

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## "The Sower, The Seeds, and the Weeds"



"The Sower" Vincent Van Gogh 1888

**Announcements continued:**

**Adult Sunday School - Class starts at 9:00 A.M., Fireside Room**

For the month of February, Dr. Carol M. Noren will lead the class on the theme "Gifted People of God." Authentic gifts of the Holy Spirit glorify God, not the recipient of the gift. They fulfill God's purpose and equip a person to answer God's call, and contribute to the common good. Through studying the lives of various people in the Old and New Testaments, I hope those in the class will be enabled to recognize their own gifts and use them at Trinity Covenant Church and beyond.

**Members and Friends Profile Sheet**

The Board of Deacons is in the process of developing a population profile of our church. Please take a moment to complete the profile sheet if you haven't done so already, and return your profile sheet to Priscilla Swanson or the church office. Extra forms are on the table in the Narthex and in the church office. Thank you.

**Annual Reports Due**

In preparation for the Annual Church Business meeting on Sunday, February 24, please prepare your 2018 annual report and send/drop off to the church office **by Sunday, February 10**. Your report can be emailed: [office@trinitycovoaklawn.org](mailto:office@trinitycovoaklawn.org) or place in the box on the table in the church office. Thank you.

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**WELCOME TO TRINITY**

So that we can get to know you better and you can better know us, please complete the tear-off below and place in the offering plate. Thank you!

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Calendar for the Week:**

**Today: Communion Sunday**

- 9:00 A.M.** Adult Sunday School, Fireside Room
- 10 A.M. Nursery for Infants/Sunday School Pre-K – 6th Grade
- 10 A.M. Worship / Camp Rally Day - representatives from Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor
- 11 A.M. Let's Do Lunch – Taco Bar, Peterson Hall

Note: No Confirmation Class

**This Week:**

- Mon.-Fri. 9 A.M. Noah's Ark Preschool
- Tues. 9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room

**Next Sunday:**

- 9 A.M.** Adult Sunday School, Fireside Room
- 10 A.M. Nursery for Infants/Sunday School Pre-K – 6th Grade
- 10 A.M. Worship

Note: Annual Reports due to church office.

**February 10 – Nursery Helpers:** Joyce Gorney, Janice Goetz

**Announcements:**

**Meet with Pastor Alicia**

Pastor Alicia would like to take time to meet with everyone at Trinity in her first couple months. Pastor Alicia has allotted 30-minute time slots continuing through Thursday, February 7, with various time slots throughout the day. Please sign up as individuals and/or families as you would like. Pastor Alicia is happy to meet at the church, your home, or even your work!

There are three options for you to signup:

1. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex.
2. Call the church office at 708-422-5111.
3. Go to our website [www.trinitycovoaklawn.org](http://www.trinitycovoaklawn.org), click on the tab About, Associate Pastor, Meet with Pastor Alicia Form.

**Note from Treasurer**

- 2018 Contribution statements are in your mail box.

## **Today's Scripture**

### **Isaiah 6:8-13**

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" <sup>9</sup>He said, "Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.' <sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." <sup>11</sup>Then I said, "For how long, Lord?" And he answered: "Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, <sup>12</sup>until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken. <sup>13</sup>And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land."

### **Matthew 13:3-23**

<sup>3</sup>Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear." <sup>10</sup>The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" <sup>11</sup>He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has will be given more, and they will

have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>13</sup>This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. <sup>14</sup>In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

"You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. <sup>15</sup>For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' <sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup>For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. <sup>18</sup>"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup>But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup>The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."