

Please feel free to contact our pastors:
Pastor Timothy: revtfmerrill@aol.com;
Pastor John: jpwillison@yahoo.com;
Stephen Minister Judy: judyxkim@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, many of AGIF's mission partners — Home Sweet Home, Eden, Huixin Orphanage, Shanghai Healing Home, Shining Star, Adoption Resources China, and Sonflowers — will have promotional tables set up at the church. If you are interested in volunteering with any of these organizations around town, please stop by this "Ministry Fair" at 2:30-3:00 p.m. and/or 4:30-5:00 p.m.

SUBWAY SUNDAY, October 15. This is a tradition following Stewardship Sundays, and a great time to catch up with friends, meet new friends, and enjoy Christian fellowship.

NO WORSHIP SERVICES on October 1 and October 8

REMEMBER TO PRAY ...

- Holly Raatz's brother, Todd — age 51 — had triple bypass surgery on Tuesday. He suffers from diabetes as well, and may need a foot amputation once this surgery is completed and he has amply healed. He is in poor health and has a 7 year-old daughter.
- For Rev. Elyn Macinnis during her visit in China.
- For Will, a 6-year-old boy, the child of a former student of Kathy Gordon. Will received a heart transplant. Pray for his recovery. Pray for the parents of the donor.
- For the Paulson family. Erik's surgery went well this week, and now he faces chemo therapy.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

The **Service Committee** is an outreach committee that helps people in need, both locally and internationally. Whether you have new ideas for financial and volunteer service projects, you have contact information for organizations that would benefit from our assistance, or you simply wish to offer your translation services, we could use your help! If you are interested in donating some time to the Service Committee, please contact Suzanne Byerly at sebyerly@hotmail.com, or Pastor Timothy.

The **Fellowship Committee** is responsible for setting up and putting away coffee and donuts each Sunday. We also organize Subway Sundays twice a year. We are looking for two more volunteers (or families) to help just one Sunday a month (on average). If interested, please talk to one of the "donut ladies" after church.



Today is the second of three Stewardship Sundays.
Here is a list of things you might want to do:

1. Read Pastor Timothy's PASTORAL letter. You can find it by returning to Wednesday's Weekly Update Email and find the link there. Or you can find a link to it on the HOME page of our website at: TrinityShanghai.org.
2. Pray and discuss with your family the extent of your support in terms of MONEY-giving, TIME-giving and TALENT-giving.
3. Complete the PLEDGE FORM and drop in collection plate. Should you misplace the form that is inserted in this Worship Guide, you can find the form on the HOME page of the Trinity website: TrinityShanghai.org.

*If you have questions, feel free to contact our Treasurer,
John Ideker at: john@ideker.com*

Thank you, and God richly bless you!

Electronic Giving or Giving in the USA
Would you prefer to give electronically?
Please see our Treasurer, John Ideker, for details.

Weekly News & Updates
Want to receive Trinity emails? Send Pastor Timothy an email at: revtfmerrill@aol.com. Or drop your business card in the offering plate.

In accordance with the laws of the People's Republic of China, only foreign passport holders are allowed to attend services here at Trinity Congregation.

Visit us at: trinityshanghai.com

TRINITY CONGREGATION

OF ABUNDANT GRACE

鸿恩

SHANGHAI



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017, 11 AM

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY (2)

Please remember to silence your smartphone and other devices during the worship service! Thank you!

THE GUIDE TO MORNING WORSHIP

* All who are able may rise to praise God.

Prelude: John Willison

***Processional Hymn:** No. 160

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”
(v 1: All; v 2: Women; v 3: All; v 4: Men; v 5: All)

Acolyte: Natalie Williamson

***Invocation** Stephen Minister Judy Kim

***Sharing the Peace**

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Timothy

Stewardship Moment

Epistle Reading: *Philippians 1:21-30* Doug Gribble, *Reader*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 20:1-16* Pastor John, *Reader*

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon: “The Problem with First World Problems” Pastor Timothy

***Hymn of Response:** “Be Still, My Soul” (v. 1 only) No. 534

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer No. 895

Offertory Pastor John

Offertory Hymn: “All Praise to Thee” No. 682 *Verse 5 only*
(Sung as a round, MEN begin, and WOMEN follow at circle)

HOLY COMMUNION



Celebrant: The Lord be with you;

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts;

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Celebrant: We praise you and bless you ... [*celebrant continues*] ... in the chorus of praise that rings throughout eternity, lifting our voice to magnify you as we sing:

People (singing): “Sanctus” No. 17

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might.

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the

high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Celebrant: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. ... [*the celebrant continues*] ... through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, to you be honor, glory and praise, for ever and ever!

People (singing): “Amen”

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body,
for we all share in one bread.

[*Ushers will release each row in turn and each row will go to the front by the SIDE aisles, and return by the CENTER aisle.*]

The following instructions may help you feel comfortable as you take communion. First, receive the bread from the server and then either dip it in a bowl with grape juice, or dip it in the cup with wine and then partake and return to your seat.

Or, you may receive the bread and partake, and then proceed to the Common Cup in the center which is wine, and drink from it, and return to your seat. Do be afraid to ask a question of the server if you are unsure. No worries!

During Communion reflect on your relationship with God and others, and offer thanksgiving and praise as the organ plays.

Communion organ interlude by Sarah Dai.

Communion Servers: The Rev. Timothy Merrill, the Rev. John Willison, Caitlin Horton, Kennedy Horton, Eleanor Williamson.

***Prayer following Communion**

Celebrant: Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience, that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you forever.

People: Merciful God, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory.

—A Prayer Book for Australia

***Recessional Hymn:** No. 529

“How Firm a Foundation” (vv. 1,3, 5)

*** Benediction**

Postlude

John Willison

Please stay for coffee and donuts following the Benediction

Our hospitality hosts are Suzanne Savage, Suzanne Byerly and Ginger Merritt

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Timothy Merrill, the Rev. John Willison,
Stephen Minister Judy Kim

Our musicians: Sara Preus and Ignatius Banda

Greeters: Jonathan and Soon-ok Borden

Flowers: The Boyer Family

Communion Bread Provider: Jeanie Merrill

Set-up, Clean-up & Ushering:

John Merritt, The Boyer Family