

**Hymn to be sung during Communion:**

“Let Us Break Bread Together,” No. 618.

*Following the singing of this hymn, and as the organ plays, reflect on your relationship with God and others, and offer thanksgiving and praise.*

Communion Servers: The Rev. Timothy Merrill, the Rev. John Willison, Stephen Minister Judy Kim, Kathy Gordon, Ginger Merritt

**Prayer after Communion**

Leader: Father in heaven,  
At the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan  
You proclaimed him your beloved Son  
And anointed him with the Holy Spirit.  
Grant that all who are baptized into his name  
May keep the covenant they have made,  
And boldly confess him as Lord and Savior,  
Who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,  
One God, in glory everlasting.

**People: Amen.**

—UMC Hymnal No. 253, after The Book of Common Prayer  
(Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22).

**\*Recessional Hymn:** *We Meet You O Christ* No. 257

**\* Benediction** Pastor Timothy

**Postlude** Sara Preus

*Please stay for coffee and donuts following the Benediction*

*Our hospitality hosts are:*

*Suzanne Savage, Suzanne Byerly, Judy Kim and Ginger Merritt*

**Worship Leaders**

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

**Our musicians:** Sara Preus and Ignatius Banda

Our Acolytes: Natalie Williamson, Alexandra Cimpian, Masha Doering

**Greeters Today:** Jeff and Karen Eekhoff

**Flowers:** Judy Kim

**Communion Bread Provider Today:** Tong Doering

**Set-up, Clean-up & Ushering Today:** John Merritt, Todd Gordon

**Please feel free to contact our pastors:**

Pastor Timothy: revtfmerrill@aol.com;

Pastor John: jpwillison@yahoo.com;

Stephen Minister Judy: judyxkim@gmail.com

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME** to Josephine Geisler, daughter of Tim and Tinne Geisler, a senior in Biblical Studies at Colorado Christian University, in Lakewood, Colorado, USA.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY.**

Parents and confirmands, look for more information to follow via WeChat and email.

**STEVE AND MARY NURRE** are with us next Sunday! Mary will be our organist, and Steve might be singing!

**NEXT BOARD MEETING** is Monday, January 22, 6:52 p.m. at Merrill’s.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

For Erik Paulson who is undergoing some more tests and who is experiencing weakness.

For Anne Gribble’s mother who was in a serious car accident the day before they returned to the States for the Christmas break.

For those who may still be traveling home.

For those who are searching for new positions.

For those who are anticipating a repatriation within the next six months or sooner.

**SERMON NOTES: MARK 1:4-11**

Mark is the only gospel writer who doesn’t provide a birth narrative (Matthew and Luke) or a reference to the preexistence of the Word (John). He gets right to it, starting the action when Jesus begins his ministry. This means that he must introduce John the baptizer to his readers.

John the baptizer is primarily known by his preaching, and it is this that ties him to Jesus. John is an appropriate prophet to prepare the way for Jesus, because his message and Jesus’ message complement one another as they both stress the importance of repentance (vv. 4, 15) in preparation for the kingdom of God. John’s preaching, in particular, focuses on two phrases: the “baptism of repentance” for “the forgiveness of sins” (v. 4). Baptism carries with it metaphors of cleansing. This was certainly true for Jewish sects (like those who lived at the Dead Sea) who used large pools in which they could immerse themselves for purification. Purification is another way that John’s baptism and preaching prepare the way for Jesus’ ministry. While John’s baptism does not cause the forgiveness of sins, it is associated with it, as people (“the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem”) “confess[ed] their sins” (v. 5). Later in Jesus’ ministry, Mark clarifies that it is only God, and now the Son of Man, who can forgive sins (2:7-10). Confessing one’s sins, however, prepares the people to realize that they are those for whom Jesus has come: “sinners” (2:15-17).

**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.

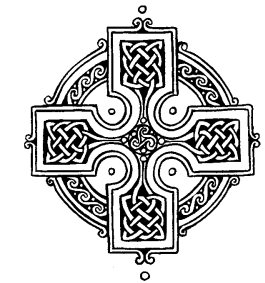
根据中华人民共和国的法律，只允许外国护照持有人在场参加。  
In accordance with the laws of the People’s Republic of China, only foreign passport holders are allowed to attend services here at Trinity Congregation.

**TRINITY  
CONGREGATION**

OF ABUNDANT GRACE

鸿恩

SHANGHAI



**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE  
EPIPHANY**

**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

**JANUARY 7, 2018, 11 AM**

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:** Sara Preus

**\*Processional Hymn:** *When Jesus Came to Jordan* No. 252  
(Sung to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation" [545])

**\*Call to Worship** Pastor John

Leader: For people in darkness, / **People: Christ is the light.**

Leader: For people in despair, / **People: Christ is the hope.**

Leader: For people grieving, / **People: Christ is a comfort.**

Leader: For people burdened,

**People: Christ is a friend to share the load.**

Leader: For people anxious, / **People: Christ is calm assurance.**

Leader: For all people gathered here, / **People: Christ is for you.**

Leader: For everyone gathered here,

**People: Hear the call to follow Christ and be Christ to others.**

Leader: For all in this place, / **People: Let your praise arise.**

**\*Invocation** Stephen Minister Judy Kim

**\*Sharing the Peace**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Old Testament Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5 Sam Williamson, *Reader*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:4-11 Josephine Geisler, *Reader*

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord

**ALL: Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**Sermon:** "Cleaning Tips from John" Pastor Timothy

**\*Hymn of Response:** *Spirit of the Living God* No. 393

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer** No. 895

**CONVERSATION** with the Children Pastor Timothy

**Offertory:** Tim Geisler, James Stovall and Josephine Geisler  
*"Go Tell It on the Mountain!"*

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

# CONFESSION BEFORE COMMUNION

## Call to Confession

*Leader:* The psalmist reminds us, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever." With this knowledge, we may confess our sins before God and one another with confidence.

## Confession

**People: Merciful God, we go about our days failing to proclaim your saving power with our voices or with our actions. We do not live as ones saved, but rather as people filled with fear and doubt. We often choose what is expedient, not what is right. We close our eyes and ears to those who are in need, and close our hearts to those we claim to love. We are quick to hurt others, and slow to right our wrongs. Forgive us, O God, for our failure to enjoy the blessings of living in a full and close relationship with you. Amen.**

## Pardon

Friends, "God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us." In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

# HOLY COMMUNION



(Musical Setting A, "Green Liturgy," found in HYMNAL pp. 17-18. Want to follow the complete liturgy without the truncated text below? Use your smartphone [in SILENT mode] and go to the website, TrinityShanghai.org. Select "Holy Communion Liturgies," and click on GREEN liturgy and follow along.)

*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, holy and gracious God, Source of life abundant. From before time you moved over the face of the deep [*Celebrant continues ...*] Yet we rebelled against you and wandered far away. But as a mother who cares for her children, you would not abandon us. Time and again, you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so on this day, we join with the Saints and Angels in a chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting up 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. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, ... [*Celebrant continues*] ... to feast at the banquet prepared for us from the foundation of the world. 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"**

Elise Eslinger

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!*]