A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

86th Stated Meeting of Tres Rios Presbytery
Friday, October 16, 2009

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church El Paso, Texas

OPENING WORSHIP 9:00 A.M.

The Torah tells us: “The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-34).

In the Christian New Testament, Jesus tells us to welcome the stranger for “What you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do unto me” (Matthew 25:40).

The Qur’an tells us that we should “serve God. . . and do good to. . . Orphans, those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet, and those who have nothing.” (4:36)

The Hindu scripture Taitiriya Upanishad tells us: “The guest is a representative of God.”

Meditation before Worship
The Word of God is not to teach us to prattle, not to make us eloquent and subtle, but to reform our lives. (Calvin)

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.
People: Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kingdom of God is revealed.
Leader: At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.
People: Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kingdom of God is revealed.
Leader: At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.
People: Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kingdom of God is revealed.

*HYMN "Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" No. 457

OPENING PRAYER

*RESPONSE "Sanctuary" No. 2164

Sing The Faith

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tired and true. With thanks-giving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Lighting of candles for those who have died on the border or in the detention centers, for all those who have suffered from our broken immigration system.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Creating and sustaining God, your great commandment in Christ is that we love one another as Christ has loved us. We confess that we fail to embrace your liberating love. We divide where you would have us unite. We exclude where you would have us embrace. We choke the breath from your Word when its truth does not accommodate our fears. Forgive our hardness of heart. Mend our broken human family. Breathe into us the living Word of all-inclusive love. We ask in the name of your child, our Brother, Jesus, the healer of our souls.

*Congregation standing if comfortably able to do so
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
Leader: Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
People: who breaks down the walls that divide.
Leader: The peace of God be always with you.
People: Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.
Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you all...

GOD'S WORD TO US

SOLO
“Holy Immigrant” Jose Luis Casal

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON Tim Davenport

ASCRIPITION OF PRAISE
Leader: Praise the Lord.
People: The Lord’s name be praised.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) written by Jose Luis Casal
I believe in Almighty God, who guided his people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and of Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.
I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who had to flee the country with his parents when his life was in danger, and who upon returning to his own country had to suffer the oppression of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. He was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and finally accused and condemned to death unjustly. But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead, not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.

*Congregation standing if comfortably able to do so
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God’s kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and unites all races.
I believe that the church is the secure home for all foreigners and believers who constitute it, speak the same language, and have the same purpose.
I believe that the communion of saints begins when we accept the diversity of the saints.
I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal, and in reconciliation, which identifies us more than does race, language, or nationality.
I believe that in the Resurrection, God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.
I believe in the eternal life beyond this world, where no one will be an immigrant but all will be citizens of God’s kingdom that has no end.
Amen.

*HYMN “When a Poor One” No. 407

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING (for our Mission Workers)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY No. 592

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE
GREAT THANKSGIVING
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

*Congregation standing if comfortably able to do so
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Leader: We praise you, Holy God, for hearing your people’s cries of pain... So come taste of this bread and wine.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Communion this morning will be by intinction

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

Thanks be to you, O God,
for your presence and your purpose.
At this table of life, nourished with possibility,
may we leave here renewed and transformed,
your living sanctuaries of love and justice.

*HYMN

"We Are Marching"
No. 2235-b
Sing the Faith

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

With Sincere Thanks

We express deep appreciation to Trinity Presbyterian Church of El Paso for so generously hosting this Presbytery meeting. We thank Pam Round, Chair of the Worship Committee, who was responsible for preparing the Communion. Thanks to all who have given of their time and talents to make this event a beautiful and noteworthy experience.

We especially thank Tim, John, Rebecca and Patty for so graciously leading us in Worship today.

We also express sincere appreciation to Nate Schocker for music during the Worship Service.

We are grateful to Jose Luis for singing the solo, which he composed and the Creed for Immigrants which he wrote.

*Congregation standing if comfortably able to do so