

TPC Weekly Newsletter

September 28, 2025

THERE IS A REDEEMER:

From Garden to Glory

Ephesians 1:3-14

To view the related message notes, [please click here](#).

Small Beginning, Big Impact

Some of the greatest stories begin in the smallest, most ordinary places. Consider Tolkien's Lord of the Rings for example. It begins in the Shire — a quiet land where hobbits live simple, serene lives, concerned with gardening, meals, and celebrations. Nothing in the story's opening suggests that the fate of Middle-earth is about to rest on the shoulders of one hobbit carrying a burden too great for him alone. A small life in a small place is drawn into a great and grand story.

We are drawn to these stories because deep down we long to know that our small, ordinary lives matter, that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Ruth's story fits the same pattern. A widow gleaning leftovers in the barley fields of Bethlehem doesn't look like history is being made. But Ruth's story is part of God's grand narrative. Out of her small, ordinary life comes a lineage leading to David, and from David to Christ, the Redeemer.

And in Ephesians 1:3–14, Paul pulls back the curtain and shows us that Ruth's story — and our story — is part of an eternal plan. A plan set before creation, accomplished at the cross, and completed in eternity. This is the story of redemption: From Garden to Glory.

From Garden to Glory

Redemption Planned (vv. 3–6)

Paul takes us back before Genesis 1:1, before God said, "Let there be light." He says that in eternity past — before there were stars in the sky, before Adam walked in the garden — God set His heart on you. Verse 4: "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world."

That means redemption is not merely God's reaction to human rebellion. The fall in Eden did not catch God off guard. Redemption is not Plan B. Redemption was God's plan from the beginning. The blueprint of creation included the schematics of redemption.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Announcements

- Visit the Deacon's Lemonade stand after worship.
- The Digging Deeper small group meets on Monday at 10 AM.
- Donations may be made to offset the shipping cost of our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Each shoebox requires at \$10 shipping fee.
- Consider giving to the love offering for the new Cedar Ridge Chapel. Please contact Cathy Dawson for more information.
- Sunday School classes resume next Sunday!

Upcoming Events & Activities

On Sunday, October 19 from 4-6 PM, we are hosting our annual TPC Fall Festival. Be sure to attend, and even more so, be sure to share you time and talents to make this event a success.

Liturgist Ministry

Please consider serving as a liturgist. It's an easy way of helping our church family stay connected and prepare for God's work among us. For more information or to signup, please contact Bert Lundstrom at bert.lundstrom@yahoo.com.

Greeter Ministry

Please look for a welcoming friend to meet & greet you on Sunday mornings. In addition, the greeter will lock all the church doors by 10:45 AM, except for the glass doors to the Narthex.

We hope everyone will take a turn being this warm, welcoming presence. To serve as a Sunday morning greeter, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Worship Streamed Online

If you're unable to worship with us in person, join us via [Facebook Live](#) on Sundays at 10:30 AM. Our online worship bulletin is [posted here](#). Check out our [YouTube channel](#), too!

And it is not just a faint or sketchy plan. Verse 5 says, “He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace.” God’s design and plan has always been relational. God was not merely planning to fix broken sinners, but to bring us into His family.

Redemption Accomplished (vv. 7–12)

First, Redemption is costly. In Paul’s day, the word “redemption” meant buying a slave’s freedom at a price. In similar, yet more significant fashion, our redemption was not purchased with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19). His innocent death secures our forgiveness and breaks the chains of sin on our heart.

Second, Redemption is purposeful. None of this is an afterthought. Verses 9-10 show us that the cross was not random, nor merely the outcome of human decision. It was “the mystery of his will”, “his purpose”, and “a plan for the fullness of time”. Far from being an accident, the cross was the center of God’s eternal plan to rescue, redeem, and restore all things under the Lordship of Christ. Every promise converges at the cross of Christ.

Third, Redemption is glorious. Nothing in all of history is as marvelous as the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. In verses 11-12, Paul reminds us that redemption does more than just rescue us – it magnifies the Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Salvation puts God’s glory on full display across history and throughout the creation. And our redeemed lives even become a living testimony that God alone is worthy of all praise.

Redemption Applied and Completed (vv. 13–14)

Securely Sealed. Redemption must be received personally. It’s not something you inherit from your family, absorbed from the culture, or earn by your own effort or education. Paul presents redemption as something you must hear and believe. And when we do, God seals us – securely and permanently – with His Spirit.

Sealed as a Guarantee. Paul says the Spirit is not only a seal, but also a guarantee — a down payment, the first installment of glory to come. While we may taste the savor of redemption now, the full feast still lies ahead. Verse 14 calls it “the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.”

Is Your Story in the Redeemer’s Story?

Where do you stand in relation to this story? Are you only an outside observer? Are you merely the reader of a tale? Or, as this is God’s true story, has this become your true story. Is the Redeemer your Redeemer?

Prayer Joys & Concerns

Thanks and Praise

Birthdays: Sandy Lamp (9/29), Steve Kratt (10/1), Emily Hacker (10/2)

Anniversaries: Scott & Leslie Koukola (9/25)

Needs and Concerns

Those who are grieving...

Jenny Rousos’ father passed away
Cheryl, Rev. Bob Williams-Neal’s sister in law, passed way
The Hughes family (Peyton - Campbellsville Univ. student) - passed away earlier this week

Those needing help/healing...

Kay Hardy-Hines - healing after a fall
John Kaufman (Kay Hardy-Hines brother)
PK Cherian
Kathy MacDonald
Sandy Lamp
Paul Hollensead - eye surgeries
George Stone - cancer treatment
Suzanne Lundstrom - healing
Jenny (Deb Kelly’s friend)
Sheryl Yoffe
Sandy Koukola
Tom Dawson
Carol Redd
Gwen Tomblin
Steve Conn
Greta Bemisderfer
Barbara Cooke
Bill & Janet Husband
Ghyll Simoneschi
Madison Cannava
Irv Ottman
David Brandt
Jack and Deb Kelly’s niece and nephew
Molly Crabb (Susan Dawson’s mom) severe knee pain
Harry Jewell
Judy (Carol Hartmann’s sister in law)
Harrison (Mullin’s grandson Brendan’s friend) - leukemia
Erin (daughter of Jude’s HS friend) - cancer has returned
Jennifer (daughter of Dawson’s friend)
Landon (great nephew to Betty Muse)
Mike McCoy (friend of Jewell’s)
Eddie Barker (Janet Husband’s cousin)
Ashley (the Husband’s grand daughter)
Monica (the Bloor-Brandt’s neighbor)
Robert (Lois Bringhurst’s brother)
Spencer Hardin (Sheryl Yoffe’s friend)
Donna Primm (Andy’s friend)
Toka (Sherry Pritts’ friend)

Situations and Circumstances...

The violence/brokenness of our city and the world
The mission and ministry of TPC
School students, teachers, school staff
TPC Preschool students, teachers, and staff
Medical caregivers, police, elected officials
The many ministries of TPC (Burrito Riders, Faith & Art Center, OCC, Sew ‘n Sews, EACM, Maryhurst, Fellowship of Christian Athletes)



Operation Christmas Child

All 550 shoe boxes have been packed!! Thank you to all who participated by packing or donating items to be packed.

Shipping the boxes costs \$10.00 apiece; if you are able, any contribution toward shipping would be greatly appreciated!

Burrito Riders!

Delivering Breakfast to the Homeless in Louisville

The Burrito Riders is a bicycle-based organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the homeless and those in need. They seek to build relationships within our communities, to foster hope, and to show God's love by helping to meet basic needs, both physical and emotional.



They ride on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month. They are entirely donations-supported and volunteer powered, so they don't charge for anything.

There is always a great need for burritos. Please take a burrito-making kit from the Narthex and plan to help stock our TPC freezer full of burritos! Thank you!

Love Offering for Cedar Ridge Camp New Sacred Space



Trinity's ministry has been blessed by our relationship with Cedar Ridge Camp for decades. Now, five years in the "birthing", Calvin Chapel at Cedar Ridge is about ready to provide sacred space for campers, retreat goers, groups, and wedding (and other) celebrations!

We have a chance to help repay the final construction loan so that earnings from rentals can sooner be used as scholarships for campers otherwise unable to experience this beauty-filled place.

Please see Cathy Dawson in the narthex to see photos, to sign up for tours, and to partner with all who have helped this dream become a fulfilled vision.



TPC Fall Picnic

Sunday, October 19, 2025
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Celebrate fall!! Bring your friends and family and join us at the picnic. There will be activities and fun for all ages.

- * Music and games
- * Hotdogs, veggie wraps, chips, cotton candy, popcorn, Dilly Bars, lemonade and water
- * Children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes
- * Farmer Steve's Mobile Petting Zoo
- * You are encouraged to bring your lawn chairs



Weekly Reminders

Be sure to check out the many discipleship options share above.

As Pastor Steve has been preaching through Ruth this Summer, he's provided a working document of his sermon manuscripts if you would like to go back and study Ruth more deeply to view this collection, [please click here](#).

If you're unable to worship with us in person, join us via [Facebook Live](#) on Sundays at 10:30 AM. Our online worship bulletin is [posted here](#). Check out our [YouTube channel](#), too!

If you have a need, a prayer request, or have information you would like to share with the rest of the Trinity family, please contact [Pastor Steve](#), [Sherry Pritts](#) (Church Secretary), [Andy Cannava](#) (Clerk of the Session), [Jim McDaniel](#) (Chair of the Deacons), or your mini-flock shepherd. Please [click here](#) for the updated mini-flock list.

To view our 2025 Leadership & Committees list, please [click here](#).

If you would like to make an online gift and/or donation to support the mission and ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church, [please click here](#).