



WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2026

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"We would see Jesus and be transformed into His Likeness"

Dear Friends,

As I've reflected on this past Sunday's Women's Day, I've found myself thinking not only about our country's history, but about the women God has placed in my own life and in our congregation. I did not focus on Women's Day during worship and so I wanted to share some of my reflections with you here.

On 9 August 1956, more than 20 000 women from across South Africa gathered at the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the pass laws. They were ordinary women with families, responsibilities and worries, but they showed extraordinary courage. They stood their ground, they refused to be silenced, and their famous words, "You strike a woman, you strike a rock," still echo today. When we celebrate Women's Day, we're remembering that women have helped carry this country through some of its darkest valleys with strength, determination and hope.

As I read the New Testament, I'm struck by how similar the women in Scripture are to the women we know today. I think of Mary, the mother of Jesus, receiving news that turned her life upside down, yet responding with trust in God. Many women in our congregation know what it is to have life take an unexpected turn and continue to trust in the Lord and respond in faith of God's presence.

I think of Mary Magdalene, who stayed near the cross when others ran, and who was among the first to meet the risen Christ. God entrusted her with the first resurrection message. That says something profound about how God values and honours women.

I think of Priscilla, teaching alongside her husband, helping Apollos understand the gospel more fully. Her story reminds me of the many women in our church who teach, mentor, and guide others in the faith—sometimes without much recognition, but with huge impact.

I think of Lydia, a businesswoman whose heart God opened, and who then opened her home. Her faith expressed itself in practical hospitality and generosity, just as so many women in our congregation do when they welcome, plan, provide, care, organize, cook, visit, and serve.

These aren't "footnote" stories in the Bible. They're central to how God has chosen to work in His church. On a more personal note, I've been especially aware of the women who have shaped my own life.

I thank God for my mom. Her prayers, her quiet strength, her support and presence through all kinds of seasons have helped form who I am today. I'm grateful for my mom-in-law, whose support and wisdom have been a steady gift to our family. She has welcomed me, encouraged me, debated with me and shared her faith with me over the years I have been part of her family. My wife has been a joyful and kind presence in

my life. She sees the best and the worst of me, and chooses to love me each day. Her faith, sense of justice, moral strength and resilience both challenge and encourage me.

Then there are the women who serve as elders on our Session. I want to say a special thank you to you. Your insight, care for people, sensitivity to the Spirit, and willingness to carry the weight of leadership are a huge blessing to our congregation and to me personally. You bring perspectives and wisdom that we would be poorer without, and I'm grateful that God has called you to this work.

And to all the women in our congregation - mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, widows, single women, students, professionals, caregivers - you are a gift and blessing to this church and to me as your minister. We value you, and we thank God for you. Your faith, your prayers, your service, your creativity, your compassion and your perseverance are a powerful testimony to the grace of God at work among us.

Trinity is a place where women are honoured, listened to, encouraged, and supported. Just as those women in 1956 stood together and changed the course of our country, and just as the women of the New Testament helped shape the early church, so too the women among us today are vital to the story God is writing in our midst.

May the Lord bless every woman in our congregation with His strength, peace and joy. And may He help us all to love, support and honour one another in a way that reflects the beauty of Christ and His kingdom.

With love and awe-filled appreciation,
Iain



(Iain Kemp)

I listened to this song while driving this week and was compelled to sing along in worship and be reminded of God's presence. The song is based on Psalm 23 where David sings about the Lord being his Shepherd, present with him through the valleys and the shadows. I have found myself singing or humming it to myself throughout the week so far. May it bless you as well.

“Surely goodness love and mercy” by Chris Tomlin – <https://youtu.be/kg7K0-Cd4i8?si=kegwKMOaQQxuB1fi>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/7GKRdRDyYBCK5Y4WMuLtPn?si=715ce420205f4dee>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/mz/song/goodness-love-and-mercy/1498518234>



“Our Purpose is to GROW DEEPER! Grow deeper with God, in Relationships with each other, by creating Opportunities for ministry and as Witnesses.”

Friday night Youth – Junior and Senior Youth on Fridays

Sunday School on Sundays at 09h00

Check out the WhatsApp group or contact Ross for more information

What's coming up....

Trinity Seniors Social - 13 August at 09:30

**A delightful morning
with delicious treats
and a cup of coffee or
tea**

**Chair exercises
with Viv and
beautiful background
music by Ian**



“Creating lasting friendships, one day at a time”

Presbytery meeting

Saturday, 15 August

09h00 -13h00

If anyone is willing to assist with
serving tea and lunch please
would you let Felicity in the
office know

6 Thinking Hats: Brewed for Better Thinking

Putting Thinking on The Table



Facts



Benefits



Feelings



Creativity



Caution



Process

Join us as we explore six ways of looking at Scripture.

Date:

19 September 2026

Time:

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Venue:

Trinity

Open to all teens and young adults

Congratulations!



It is with great pleasure we inform you that Colleen Potgieter and Alan Busse were married on 5 August 2026 at Sedgefield. We at Trinity wish them God's richest blessings on their life together.



Warm congratulations to Jason Shaw and Talia Ganesh on their engagement