



# TEMPLE TALK

from Laura Kelly

**THIS TEMPLE TALK WAS SHARED DURING WORSHIP  
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024**

My name is Laura Kelly for those who may not know me. When Pastor Sarah asked me if I was willing to take part in the Temple Talk Series this fall, I agreed even though I am not a very good public speaker, so please bear with me! To guide me in sharing today, she provided a few questions. I'll weave my responses into a story of my journey with Trinity Ecumenical Parish.

For someone who moved around A LOT as a child and into my early years of marriage (25 moves before I turned 35 and not many of them were not military) I was desperately looking for a place to call HOME! Yes, I know my home is where my heart is, but I wanted and needed to find a church home. Once we settled in the lake area in 1994, I began looking for a church that felt just right. As we attended several churches over the first couple of years nothing felt as perfect as Trinity! I attended church as a child and was an active member in our youth group in high school, even going so far as to teach Sunday School as a teenager. I knew I wanted to provide a similar experience for our 3 beautiful children. At that time, they were 5, 6, and 7. Now they are 35, 36, 37! Even though other younger families were few and far between among the TEP congregation, I connected with the members and knew this would be our church home.

My first real sense of belonging at Trinity came through Pastor Gary's sermons. It always felt like he was talking directly to me and as if he was in my head and knew exactly what I may be struggling or dealing with at the time. Sharon Sicher and I were also two peas in a pod raising our 7 children among us. We connected as room mothers at Dudley Elementary School. We shared a connection as stay-at-home moms in addition to our passion for the Lord. As we journeyed through life, we knew something needed to happen for our children regarding a youth group here at Trinity. Pastor Gary, without a blink of an eye, supported us wholeheartedly! It was through those early crazy years at Trinity that God clearly showed me my purpose to serve and call Trinity Home! The thing I appreciate most about the ministries of Trinity is the openness of acceptance of anyone and everyone, not only in our congregation but also for those we serve in our community and beyond. As I served as a youth leader for so many years, it always amazed me how many of our youth were faithful participants from our community and yet not necessarily members of our congregation. I have also experienced the openness of acceptance with my mother now that she has become part of this community. Each week I sit in awe as I watch several of our members approach her to just say hi and check to see how she is doing! Thank you!

The inspiration for my own generosity comes from my mother. As many of you may know my mother came to live with us 4 years ago and it has been my honor to walk with her through this season of life. I have ALWAYS been a momma's girl. I was pitifully shy as a little girl hiding behind her skirt. She is a trained registered nurse who has always had the heart to serve those in need. It is through her compassion and loving nature I truly learned the meaning of generosity. I believe wholeheartedly generosity is first displayed in our actions and not necessarily through our purse strings. Compassion, empathy, and giving of oneself are all synonyms for generosity in my mind and my world.

Supporting Trinity Ecumenical Parish with my weekly offering is to support our worship time which I desperately crave and need to keep my soul well. It is through worship my heart and soul feel at peace and in communion with God and others. I feel truly blessed we have such an amazing group of pastors and talented musicians who passionately feed my soul... our souls each week!

As I look to the future, my greatest hope for Trinity is to always keep an open mind and heart to hear God's word, God's call, and plan, and to serve and share Him in everything we do! AMEN.