TUCC Worship Series – Lent and Easter 2019

**March 6 – April 21**

# A Journey of

**Spiritual Transformation**

Is there some change you’re seeking to make in your life? Is there some passion or joy you’re hoping to expand or share? Are you floundering around in the dark, mired in the stress of life? Are you spinning without direction? How do you seek to transform yourself?

The word “transformation” is popular these days. In molecular biology, transformation is the genetic alteration of a cell resulting from the uptake and expression of foreign genetic material (DNA). In information technology, data transformation is the “process of converting data from a source into a destination format.” Psychologists speak of transformation as fundamental change in a person’s emotional state or personality. As we age, our minds and bodies undergo physiological as well as physical changes. In many instances, these changes can be readily observed.

But what about your spiritual life? How is it with your soul these days? In this 7-week series, we will explore aspects of spiritual transformation and questions like these: How is your inner life transformed by the Lenten and Easter seasons? How do you make known your spiritual renewal to others? How can it transform other areas of your life? What is the impact of this transformational change on your life as a person seeking faith and as a follower of Jesus Christ?

I invite you to join us on this journey of discovery Sunday mornings at 10:45am. Learn more about us at www.trinityuccmanchester.org and on Facebook. May you be blessed by the transforming grace of the season.

**Worship Schedule**

 **March 6 Ash Wednesday – In the Darkness – In the Ashes – 7:00 pm**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sacrament of Communion; Imposition of Ashes & Homily by Pastor Hanberry

**March 10 -- Lent 1: Transformation – From Temptation to Power**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: “*The Folly of Power”*

**March 17 – Lent 2: Transformation – From Fear to Hope**

Genesis 15:1-1-2. 17-18; Psalm 27; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: “*Living Contrary to the Evidence*”

**March 24 – Lent 3: Transformation – From Sin to Forgiveness**

Isaiah 55:1-9; Ps 63:1-8; 1 Cor10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: “*The Hard and Wonderful Journey to Repentance”*

**March 31 – Lent 4: Transformation – From Lost to Found**

Josh 5:9-12; Ps 32; 2 Cor 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon: “Embracing Love”

**April 7 – Lent 5: Transformation – From Death to New Life**

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Sermon: “Lazarus, Mary, Martha and Jesus: Friends in Faith”

**April 14 -- Palm/Passion Sunday**

Transformation – From Triumph to Tragedy

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40

Sermon: “Palms, Passion, and a Donkey”

**April 18 -- Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm**

Transformation – In the Darkness Again

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:2326; John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (Sacrament of Holy Communion)

Homily: “The Power of the Meal”

**April 19 – Good Friday – 7:00pm**

Transformation – Into the Darkness of Death

Selected readings from the Gospels of Matt., Luke, & John

Worship around the “Seven Last Words of Jesus” from the Cross

**April 21 -- Easter Sunday Celebration**

Transformation – From Death to Life

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Rev 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Sermon: *Fully Alive!*

 **If you are looking for warm people who will love you just as you are,** consider worshiping with us. Trinity United Church of Christ has been welcoming seekers for over 250 years, and we invite you to be part of our long tradition of welcoming! Worship at Trinity is participative, held in a beautiful traditional sanctuary with inspiring sermon series and a diverse musical offering from our choir and congregation.

**Our faith is 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not.** We believe in God’s continuing testament. This is why we are committed to hearing God’s ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. We try to remain attentive to God’s creative movement in the world. Religion and science are not mutually exclusive, and your head and heart are both welcomed into our places of worship. We prepare our members and leaders to be engaged in ministry in the present and future church, and we embrace all kinds of communities and new modes of thinking. Why? Because God is still speaking.

**Beyond Our Walls.** Trinity is committed to the community beyond our walls in Manchester, or even in Carroll County. We are involved in a variety of outreach efforts in the name of Christ**. Food Bags for Backpacks:** Food items are collected monthly during the school year for Manchester Elementary School for students who receive Free/Reduced meals.  **The Little Free Library is a shared effort between the church, Manchester Elementary School, and the town of Manchester. This Library belongs to everyone! You, your neighbors, friends, and people who pass by. Anyone may use it! This Little Free Library offers a way to share good things to read in our community. Little Free Library is honored by The Library of Congress for creating communities of literacy.**

**What is a Little Free Library?**

**A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. In its most basic form, it’s a wooden box of books where anyone may pick up a book or two, or bring a book to share. Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch and there is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community. These aren’t just any old books, this is a carefully curated collection. The Library itself is a piece of neighborhood art that acts like a mini-town square. A Little Free Library promotes community and a sense of caring for those living in the community.**

* **TAKE BOOKS – If you see something your child would like to read, take it. You can even take two!**
* **SHARE BOOKS – When you are finished reading, return the books to the Little Free Library or pass them on to a friend. If you can’t bear to part with them, keep them and bring back different children’s books to share with others.**
* **GIVE BOOKS – Do your part and keep the Little Free Library well stocked with high-quality children’s books – share your favorites. Pay it forward! To donate larger quantities of good condition children’s books, simply drop them off at the designated boxes inside Manchester Elementary School and inside Manchester Town Hall.**

**Why Is Trinity UCC Interested in Being Part of This Effort?**

**Our church is committed to community within and beyond our walls. We are expanding the directive “Feed my sheep” to “Read to My Sheep.” We believe that by providing books to those who might not otherwise have access to them, we are demonstrating our commitment to community and helping to shine God’s light of care in Manchester.**

**Cold Weather Shelter:** We cook for the residents of and staff the cold weather shelter in Westminster, MD. We began this effort in two years ago by working at the shelter one night and have expanded to working two nights during the winter months. **Prayer Shawls** are made and blessed monthly for those needing a spiritual touch.  **Carroll County opens an overnight shelter from mid-November to April 1. It is staffed by volunteers from the community. Our congregation helps staff and provides a warm meal for the 30-40 homeless people who depend on this facility during the cold weather months.**

**We have seen people with various chronic illnesses and people lacking warm clothing. So we also donate clothing and over the counter medicines to the shelter as well.**

**Caring Committee:** The caring committee responds to emergency requests from the community. We partner with Human Services Programs and NESAP to guide individuals to resources available in the community. Trinity United Church of Christ

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### Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry, Interim Pastor

Cover art: “Mandala of Transformation” by Jaimie Cahlil

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## Trinity United Church of Christ




# LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

**March 6 – April 7, 10:45am**

**Palm Sunday, April, 14, 10:45am Maundy Thursday, April 18, 7:00pm**

**Good Friday, April 19, 7:00pm**

**Easter Sunday, April 21, 10:45am**