

Trinity United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020



ToDay:
**In Our Blindness
Sight Restored**

The congregation will speak in unison those portions which are **bolded on the screen.**

* As you are able, please stand for parts marked with an *

WE GATHER

*During this Lenten worship, we encourage you to know and to remember that this is a **Quiet Meditative Space**, that this is a **Safe and Loving Place**, a **Sanctuary**, for worship, praise and reflection; and to remember that **'No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You are Welcome Here!***

Welcome to This "at home" Worship... Maybe, you'd like to light a candle as you worship with this bulletin...especially if you have gathered your family or friends with you.

(If you have prayer requests which you would like mentioned in the bulletin/newsletter, please send a note to Pastortucc@comcast.net

Prelude:

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God, sometimes, the days are long, the nights are even longer, and we're so tired, even afraid for what's happening all around us. And then You soothe us and bring us to gentle places.

ALL: You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

Leader: Sometimes, life is moving too fast, and we can't find a moment to breathe. And then You surround us with stillness and bring an even rhythm to our breath.

ALL: You are our shepherd, and we are centered on You.

Leader: Sometimes, we're parched, and it seems nothing will quench our thirst. We're famished and we can't find anything to eat. And then You refresh and fill us.

ALL: You are our shepherd, and we are made full.

Leader: Sometimes, the valley is dark and the shadows are heavy and we're afraid. But then we feel Your strength, and we have courage.

ALL: You are our shepherd, and there is nothing we fear.

Leader: There are the times when it seems we're up against the world,

ALL: You show those who push the hardest that You have called us to serve. You touch us, and we are blessed.

Leader: We will praise You and dwell with you forever, O God.

ALL: We will worship You this day and always!

***Hymn "There Are Some Things I May Not Know"
405 (Black Hymnal)**

There are some things I may not know
There are some places Oh Lord, I cannot go
But I am sure Of this one thing
That God is real For I can feel Him in my soul
Yes, God is real Oh, He's real in my soul
Yes, God is real For He has a washed
And made me whole His love for me

Is just like pure gold, oh Lord My God is real
For I can feel Him in my soul
Yes, God is real Oh yes, God is real...
Yes, God is real Oh yes, God is real in my soul Yes, God is real
For He has washed And made me whole
His love for me You know it's just like pure gold
Oh yes Yes, God is real For I can feel Him in my soul
Source: [Musixmatch](#)

The Psalter Reading Psalm 23 (see # 633-34 to say the Psalm and for the congregational sung response)

WE CONFESS

Pastor: Let us pray for newness of life and renewal for the journey of our lives.

ALL: O Wise and Gracious God, we are each a small dot, a pixel, in the picture of your amazing creation. You have designed us to work together. And yet, as we have to separate ourselves in these days, help us live as if our strength lies not just in our individuality, but in our togetherness while apart. We confess to you that we often find it easier to celebrate our solitude, to thrive on our individual gain, and to seek ways to lift ourselves above the canvas as more important than others. We pray that you will impress upon us your definition of “one” as together, and that we will seek both the ability and the courage to move away from “one” that is each of us alone. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

We give God, our deepest gratitude and love for God's forgiveness. Let this forgiveness be our strength and our guide.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***We Sing of God's Abundant Grace “Grace Alone” (Refrain)**

**Grace a-lone which God supplies,
strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us our Cornerstone;
we will go forth in grace a-lone.**

WE REMEMBER OUR CHILDREN

You know the names of our children who would normally gather with Pastor Gerry for a time of conversation. Stop and think of each one of them and smile and find delight in them.

WE PROCLAIM

Finding Your Place in the Lenten Story: after you read the scripture for today, think about a time when you found it hard to see...to see the love around you...to see God working in your life. Remember that story and be glad for new sight, for new insight.

Scripture Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 & John 9:1-41

Sermon: “Wow! I Can See Again” Pastor Hanberry

***Hymn “Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows”
248 (Black Hymnal)**

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;

and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Joys and Concerns – Pastoral Prayer

If you have a prayer of praise or concern, take a few moments to lift these concerns and joys to god and pray!

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.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory: Take a moment to decide how you will give your offering for our financial resources. Be thankful.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Great Provider, bless these offerings
and multiply them according to your will.
May they restore hope and wholeness
to those who benefit from them.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

WE GO FORTH

***Hymn “Amazing Grace” # 548 (Black Hymnal)**

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
T'was blind but now I see

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.
T'was grace that brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home,

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.
T'was grace that brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home,
And grace will lead us home

Amazing grace, How Sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
T'was blind but now I see...T'Was blind, but now I see.
Source: [LyricFind](#)

*Carrying the Light into the World

*Benediction

*Postlude:



Worship Notes and Resources: Adapted by Pastor Hanberry from “Worship Ways” of the UCC.org worship resources.

Worship Leadership

Gerry C. Hanberry
Lexi Starr

Interim Pastor
Director of Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Today

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God.

The bulletins are given to the Glory of God.

The Offering Stewards are Robert Miller and MariBeth Brainerd.

The Offering Ushers are Sue Myers and Sandy Sanders.

The Greeters are Belva LaMotte and Sue Myers.

Budget Information:

Amount needed from all sources each week to meet our budget:
\$2,436.00.

Giving for last Sunday:

Honduras donations: \$1,100.00

General: \$1,075.00 Building Fund: \$70.00

Attendance: Worship: 21 Children’s Church: 3

Submission Dates for Bulletins/Newsletter

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday

April Newsletter – Monday, March 23

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Prayers are needed for our country at this difficult time and all those in need.

March 29 – Lent 5: Death – Breath of Hope

Ezek 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Rom 8:6-11;

John 11:1-45 (Jesus Raising Lazarus from the Dead”

Sermon: “Hope Out of Darkness – Renewed Belief”

The **OGHS Offering** was to be taken on **March 22**. If you wish you can mail in your donation to the church.

Easter flowers

Anyone wishing to purchase Easter flowers order forms can be mailed to the church. (See later in the bulletin)

Cold Weather Shelter Donation Suggestions

Sweatpants – Men’s M, L, XL, XXL are the **Most needed items**

New Underwear – Men’s boxers or boxer briefs (HUGE NEED) and women’s styles as well as new or gently used bras

Sweatshirts – hooded or regular, fleece tops

Winter Coats—especially larger sizes **Hats**—warm

Gloves – warm/weatherproof preferred

Thermal shirts/long underwearT-shirts (new or gently used)

Socks – warm men’s and women’s

Backpacks – school sized, new or gently used

Belts – gently used are fine

Blankets/sheets – twin sized only, sorry no comforters

Food/misc. items:

Coffee/creamer/sugar

Individual wrapped breakfast/snack to-go items

Lip balm, Deodorant, Razors – double blade preferred

Hand warmers – very much appreciated during the extreme cold

Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

Interim Pastor—the Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry

Cell: 301-788-6546 (preferred phone for the pastor)

E-mail: pastortucc@comcast.net

Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net

Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Facebook – www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

Director of Music Ministry- Lexi Starr

Cell: 443-814-5402 E-mail: lexdiluca@gmail.com

Consistory President – Robert Miller

Vice President – Doug Rhoten

Secretary – Karen Haines

Treasurer – Sue Myers

Assistant Treasurer – Debra Miller

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

The cost of each plant is **\$11.00**. Deadline to place an order is Sunday, **March 29, 2020**. **Payment must be made when you place your order. Specify: In Loving Memory of: or In Honor of: by whom**

Any further questions, please see MariBeth Brainerd. Please make checks payable to: Trinity U.C.C.

I / We wish to sponsor flowers for Easter.

Name: _____

Lily _____

Tulip _____(red) _____(yellow) _____(purple)

Mums _____(white) _____(purple) _____(yellow) _____(mixed)

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

BY:

