

Trinity United Church of Christ

March 12, 2023

10:45 a.m.

3rd Sunday in Lent
In-Person Worship
FB Live Streaming

***Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 146) Sue Myers

One: Happy are we whose help is in God,

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Our hope rests in God, who made heaven and earth:

All: Praise the Lord!

One: who brings justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry,

All: Praise the Lord!

One: sets prisoners free and gives sight to the blind.

All: Praise the Lord!

One: In the wilderness and beyond, let us worship with joy
the One in whom we place our hope.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Jessica

One: Merciful God,

We fret when life is hard. It's difficult to follow Jesus's greatest commandments to love God and to love our neighbors.

When we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits,

All: Forgive us, O God.

When we have turned our hearts from those in need,

All: Forgive us, O God.

When we have put you to the test,

All: Have mercy, O God.

When we have been stubborn and lacked forgiveness.

All: Have mercy, O God.

When we have been merciless with others,

All: Forgive us, O God.

Make us people of courage. Help us care for those more vulnerable than we are. In our awareness of your awesome power and steadfast love,

**All: Let us dedicate our lives in your service.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

“Responding to Poverty”

The Mission of Trinity United Church of Christ:
***We exist to Love people where they are and
encourage them to grow in their relationship
with Jesus Christ.***

WE GATHER

*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!*

Prelude: Instrumental Music

Welcome

Pastor Jessica

**Gathering Music: “Come, O Thankful People, Come”
(NCH 422)**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: God has touched our hardened hearts with compassionate care, God has bound up our wounds and strengthened our souls. God's love is poured out for you. Rejoice that you are forgiven in the name of the blessed and holy Trinity. Amen.

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Children's Hymn: Lord I Thank You by Yancy

[Lord I Thank You - Yancy & Little Praise Party \[OFFICIAL KIDS WORSHIP MUSIC VIDEO\]](#) [Taste and See](#)

A Time for Discovery

WE PROCLAIM

First Reading: Romans 5:1-11 Sue Myers

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:41-46 *Pastor Jessica*

One: For the Word of God in Scripture
For the Word of God among us
For the Word of God within us

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon: This Great Human Invention *Pastor Jessica*

Statement of Faith: Sue Myers
UCC Statement of Faith (Adapted by Robert V. Moss) – Unison

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

*Doxology (sung)

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

Prayer of Dedication

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Announcements

Pastor Jessica

Hymn: "God Be With You" (NCH 81)

WE GO FORTH

*Carrying the Light into the World

* Benediction

* Postlude Instrumental music

Worship Notes and Resources:

The music in our worship today is reproduced via our CCLI
License number: [2809801](#)

Leadership

Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley	Pastor
Sue Myers	Lay Reader
Deb Persinger	Worship Committee
Sandy Sanders	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for next week:

March 19, 2023 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13; John 3:1-17

Theme: Defining Love

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be on March 19th.

Scrip Gift Cards

Please consider taking part in this program.

Orders go in the 1st Sunday of the month.

See Sue Myers for more information, 443-375-6788 or

wsmdem@comcast.net

Budget Information:

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

Giving for last week: \$1,095.00

Attendance: 31

Building Fund/Fundraising: \$60.00

Please give in the various ways we offer for you to give your financial offerings to Trinity. We are lagging in our giving and hope that we can re-gain the generous level of giving we are accustomed to receiving.

Submission Dates for Bulletins/Newsletter

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday

April Newsletters - Wednesday, March 22

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

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

Meeting Dates Zoom

Worship Comm – Wednesday, March 22 @6pm

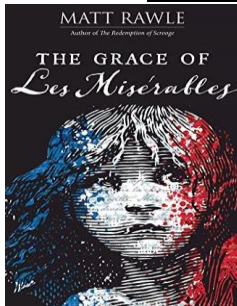
PPR – Wednesday, March 22 @ 7pm

Consistory – Wednesday, April 5 @ 7pm



Join Pastor Jessica Sunday,
March 19 at 10 a.m. for coffee hour.

Lenten Worship Series and Bible Study!



Join us throughout the season of Lent for a study of *The Grace of Les Misérables* based on the book by Matthew Rawle.

- Our bible study group will meet **Thursdays March 16, 23, and 30** at 7pm via Zoom and close our study after worship on Palm Sunday (**April 2**) IN PERSON with a meal following worship.

If you would like a book, please see Pastor Jessica and she will be happy to get one for you.



Faithful Five

Periodically, Pastor Jessica's "Faithful Five" devotional time will be shared via our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

Fundraisers for our youth coming up:

March 25, 2023 Saturday from 2-4 pm, all supplies and refreshments too.



Cross Board class with floral designer Brandy Smith of Forever Flowers and Gifts. Watch for sign up, class is limited to 20 people. Price will be 45.00 per person. Brandy makes and dyes sola wood flowers to enhance and create unique items. She will be instructing the class on putting the board together and adding a personal touch of color to your cross. Below is an example of a finished board.

Trinity UCC Covid Protocol

Masks are now optional while inside the building.

If you are sick, please care for others by wearing a mask and/or keeping a distance.

We appreciate everyone's understanding!



Get Involved in Worship

As COVID numbers continue to decline and we feel safer in worship, we are seeking more volunteers to serve in various roles.

If you are interested in serving as a **lay reader, media operator, greeter, usher, or helping with children's church**, please let Pastor Jessica know.

Even if you are unable to make it to worship in person, there are ways you can **serve as a reader from home**. Many hands make much lighter work for everyone!



Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen emergencies, the decision to close the church will be made two hours before worship/meetings/workday begin. You can find out whether or not the building will be open in the following possible ways:

1. Calling the church at 410 374-2727 (The voice mail message will reflect the decision to close or remain open.)
2. Checking your email. (Those with email will receive a message.)
3. Listening to WBAL 1090 AM
4. Receiving a call through the phone tree

Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

Pastor: The Rev. Jessica Ashcroft/Townsley

Cell: 240-285-9357

E-mail: Jessica Townsley (pastortucc@comcast.net)

Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net

Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Facebook – www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

Consistory President – Robert Miller

Vice President – Doug Rhoten

Secretary – Debra Miller

Treasurer – Sue Myers

Assistant Treasurer – Debra Miller

