



# Trinity United Church of Christ

March 19, 2023

10:45 a.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
In-Person Worship  
FB Live Streaming

## “Defining Love”

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 played by Hannah Matthews

Welcome

Pastor Jessica

Gathering Music: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”  
(NCH 43) all verses

### \*Call to Worship

Jackie Nave Kulp

L: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

P: **Once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have  
been found and welcomed home.**

L: Know that God’s love is lavished upon you forever.

P: **We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

L: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

P: **Amen!**

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

Pastor Jessica

One: God, you loved this world so much  
that you sent your own son, Jesus Christ  
to live and die among us,  
in order that we might have life.

All: **Forgive us for keeping that abundant life to  
ourselves, for jealously hoarding your generous gifts,  
for choosing self-interest over compassion and justice.**

One: Teach us what it means to live as children of the light,  
generously sharing your abundance  
with our brothers and sisters in need. **Amen.**

#### Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Turn again to the Lord, for you are the beloved of  
God and have been blessed beyond measure. Rejoice  
that God loves you. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are  
forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

#### Passing of the Peace

#### Children’s Hymn:

#### A Time for Discovery

## Children's Church

Pastor: Now receive the blessing from your church family who loves you:

Adults: **The Lord be with you!**

Children: **And also with you!**

All of our children are now invited to go to Children's Church!

## WE PROCLAIM

**First Reading:** 1 Corinthians 13     Jackie Nave Kulp

**Gospel Reading:** John 3:1-17     *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:** The Gift of Love     *Pastor Jessica*

**Affirmation of Faith:**     Jackie Nave Kulp

**Apostle's Creed** (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Pastor Jessica**

**Hymn: "Lift High the Cross" (NCH 198)**

## WE GO FORTH

**\*Carrying the Light into the World**

**\* Benediction**

**\* Postlude** Instrumental music played by Hannah Matthews

**Worship Notes and Resources:**

The music in our worship today is reproduced via our CCLI License number: 2809801

## Leadership

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley | Pastor            |
| Hannah Matthews           | Pianist           |
| Jackie Nave Kulp          | Lay Reader        |
| Deb Persinger             | Worship Committee |
| Sandy Sanders             |                   |

## **ANNOUCEMENTS**

### Worship at Trinity UCC for next week:

**March 26, 2023 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Scriptures: Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

Theme: Modeling Empathy

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering today!

### Scrip Gift Cards

Please consider taking part in this program.

Orders go in the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.

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

[wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto:wsmdem@comcast.net)

### Budget Information:

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

**Giving for last week: \$1,721.00**

Attendance: 26

Building Fund/Fundraising: \$280.00

***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

## Meeting Dates Zoom

Worship Comm – Wednesday, March 22 @6pm

PPR – Wednesday, March 22 @ 7pm

Consistory – Wednesday, April 5 @ 7pm

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

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

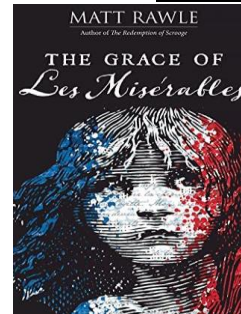


### Faithful Five

Periodically, Pastor Jessica's "Faithful Five" devotional time will be shared via our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC](https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC)

### 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 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.

## 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.



### 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



### 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!

### 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!**

### Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

Pastor: The Rev. Jessica Ashcroft/Townsley

Cell: 240-285-9357

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

Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – [trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net](mailto:trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net)

Website – [www.trinityuccmanchester.org](http://www.trinityuccmanchester.org)

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC)

Consistory President – Robert Miller

Vice President – Doug Rhoten

Secretary – Debra Miller

Treasurer – Sue Myers

Assistant Treasurer – Debra Miller

