

Trinity United Church of Christ

March 5, 2023

10:45 a.m.

2nd Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

In-Person Worship

FB Live Streaming

“Understanding Justice”

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: “Just as I Am” (NCH 207) all verses

*Call to Worship

Robert Miller

L: We are called into a ministry of reconciliation and sharing.

**P: God reconciled us to God’s self through the witness of
Jesus Christ.**

L: We no longer need to fear.

P: Hope has been given to us.

L: So now we are the Body of Christ. God worked through us to
serve others, reflecting God’s justice, love, and grace in all that
we say, think and do.

**P: Praise be to God who has trusted us with this mission.
Let us serve God faithfully!**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Jessica

One: God of justice,

We have whined and complained
about all things in our lives that are challenging.

We have focused solely on them,
forgetting all you have given us and all that is good.

We have refused to see what’s happening around us,
ignoring the pain and suffering of others.

We have run toward false, worldly justice and
forgotten your call to divine justice and equity.

Forgive us when we have missed the mark,

Help us love as you love and give as generously as you
give.

In this Lenten season, and beyond.

When our yokes are heavy,

Remind us we don’t have to carry them alone.

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: Choosing Happy by Yancy and the Little Praise Band

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: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Robert Miller

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:1-15 *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: Is Grace Ever Just? *Pastor Jessica*

Affirmation of Faith: "The Nicene Creed" (unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten not made, one in being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus
Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer After Communion

You have given yourself to us, Lord.

Now we give ourselves for others.

Your love has made us new people.

As a people of love we will serve you with joy.

Your glory has filled our hearts.

Help us to glorify you in all things.

Announcements

Pastor Jessica

Hymn: "Come O Fount of Every Blessing" (NCH 459)

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
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Leadership

Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley

Pastor

Hannah Matthews

Pianist

Robert Miller

Lay Reader

Deb Persinger

Worship Committee

Sandy Sanders

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for next week:

March 12, 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11; Matt 25:41-46

Theme: Responding to Poverty

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: \$821.00

Attendance:28 Pancake Supper: \$20.55

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

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.

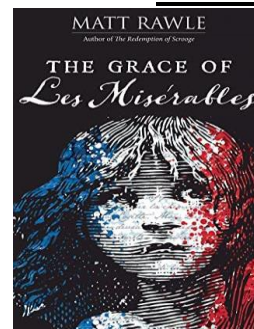


Faithful Five

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

www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

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 9, 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.

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)

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

