



Trinity United Church of Christ

July 30, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Ninth Sunday after
Pentecost

In-Person Worship
FB Live Streaming

“Seeds of Faith”

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.*

*Meditation of the Week: “The feeling remains that God is on the
journey too.” ~ St. Teresa of Avila~*

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

*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 Performed by
Hannah Matthews

Words of Welcome

Pastor Katie

Announcements

Pastor Katie

***Call to Community**

Leslie Brooks

O Creator of the Universe, who knows what the kingdom of
God is like, but also remembers what it was like before.

**Before creation and kingdoms, before mustard seeds
and fine pearls, before yeast and bakers to make bread.**

So, you know what it is like to long for them, to imagine them
into being,

**And it is from this longing for your kingdom and for
you that we enter our worship.**

Yes, come, let us praise and pray to our God of promise.

**Let us rejoice in the Good News together—how
nothing can separate us from the presence of God. Amen.**

***Hymn: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You” (#4 NCH)**

Meditation on the Fish of Every Kind

God casts a line into the sea of you, the sea of us, the sea of
me. Yet before reeling anything in, God pauses to hear and
feel the wind blowing over the water. Join me in making the
sound of wind!

God finds fish of every kind above the water: sea mullets and
African butterfly fish jumping out of the waves to find safety in
the air up high; salmon swimming upstream, showing the
power of struggle and what it means to find fresh water
again.

**“Now the sea is in me: I am the fish, the fish glitters
in me...we are nourished by the mystery.” (Mary Oliver,
“The Fish”)**

God casts a line into the sea of you, the sea of us, the sea of me. Yet before reeling anything in, God pauses to hear and feel the waves of the water.

God finds fish of every kind beneath the water: parrot fish, rainbow trout, and the rose-veiled fairy wrasse swim in the pride parade under the waves; the true co-parents of the ocean, male seahorses and sea dragons give birth to their babies while their female partners regain their energy to make another egg.

“Now the sea is in me: I am the fish, the fish glitters in me...we are nourished by the mystery.” (Mary Oliver, “The Fish”)

God casts a line into the sea of you, the sea of us, the sea of me. Yet before reeling anything in, God pauses to see and sense the light in the deepest waters.

God finds fish of every kind at the depths of the water: lantern fish and fireworms make their own light in the dark with the magic of bioluminescence; while angler fish partner with bacteria to create a glow in a never-ending night, illuminating what it means to be seen in an otherwise invisible world.

“Now the sea is in me: I am the fish, the fish glitters in me...we are nourished by the mystery.” (Mary Oliver, “The Fish”)

God reels us all in—our diverse multiplicity. Those who soar high above and those who find calm at the depths below. The predator and prey within each of us, too. God takes us in our wholeness and the ways we’ve navigated the waves of change. And then, we are released, put back in the ocean once again.

Because life is a catch and release, in this sea of the Spirit. May we be open to this mystery. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you!

Pass a sign of God’s Peace to one another.

A Story for the Child in All of Us Mustard Seed Faith

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

First Reading: Genesis 29:15-28 Leslie Brooks

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Pastor Katie

The Message *Growing our Faith* Pastor Katie

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***Hymn of Response “It is Well With Your Soul” (#438 NCH)**

Invitation to Generosity

***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.**

Blessing Our Gifts

Like the net that was thrown into the sea and brought in fish of every kind, we celebrate the multitude and diversity of gifts that have been shared here today. May God bless these treasures with the abundance of Christ’s love and passion to embody justice in our world. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

*Closing Hymn "Community of Christ" (#314 NCH)

*** Benediction**

Sisters and brothers of Christ, go into all the world!

Go forth with forgiveness and grace.

Go forth with compassion and love.

We go as Christ's family for all the world to see.

***Carrying the Light into the World**

***Postlude:** Instrumental music by Hannah Matthews

Worship Notes and Resources:

Adapted from [https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-9a-july-30/Oliver, Mary. "The Fish." American Primitive, Back Bay Books, 1983.](https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-9a-july-30/Oliver, Mary. 'The Fish.' American Primitive, Back Bay Books, 1983.)

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

Leadership

Katie Penick

Hannah Matthews

Leslie Brooks

Deb Persinger

Sandy Sanders

Pastor

Pianist

Lay Reader

Worship Committee

Please join us for fellowship to welcome Pastor Katie today following our church service. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the social hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for next week:

August 6, 2023 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Genesis 32:22-31 Matthew 14:13-21

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: \$710.00

Attendance:26 Building Fund/Fundraising: \$110.00

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

September Newsletters - Monday, August 21

Meeting Dates Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, August 2 @ 7pm

Worship Comm – TBA

PPR – TBA

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns

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



Get Involved 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 Worship Committee 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 U.C.C. Contact Information

Pastor: the Rev. Katie Penick

Cell: 240-418-8028

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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

