



Trinity United Church of Christ

“Third Sunday of Lent”

March 3, 2024

10:45 a.m.

In-Person Worship

FB Live Streaming

Repairing ! For Such a Time as This Week Three: 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.*

Meditation of the Day - “The Journey by which we discover God is also the journey by which we discover... our true self hidden in God. It is a journey we all have to make” ~Esther de Waal~

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, Joys and Concerns Pastor Katie

***Call to Community**

Sue Myers

One: Hear and believe the good news: God has called us “my people”!

All: **God has set up a covenant, over and over again, choosing us even before we can choose, faithful even when we are faltering.**

One: In the flood, in the wilderness, in exile; in certainty and doubt, abundance and scarcity; God’s promise is true to all generations.

All: **We see the rainbow, we hear our names, we learn the commandments, we look up for our help, we know in our hearts: we love because God first loved us, we follow because God first came to us, we can be faithful because God is faithful.**

One: Come, let us worship God together.

***Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you

Pass a sign of God’s Peace to one another

“to promote healthy practices, please greet one another from your pew”

***Opening Hymn: “You Are the Salt of the Earth, O People”
(#181 NCH)**

Responsive Reading of Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

All: **Look to the mountains and see everlastingness...**

One: Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

All: Search both day and night and watch for the glory of it...

One: There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

All: Listen to the silence and hear wonder speak...

One: yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

All: Look to the horizon to hear a word about eternity...

One: In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a beloved from a wedding canopy,
and like a strong athlete runs its course with joy.

All: Look to the sunrise and enjoy God's forever-promise...

One: Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

All: Look to the seasons and live God's rhythm...

One: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple;

All: Look to creation's order and accept its wisdom...

One: the precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of God is clear,
enlightening the eyes;

All: Look to justice and truth and feel their light...

One: the fear of God is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of God are true
and righteous altogether.

All: Look to the word and recognize its call...

One: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine
gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the
honeycomb.

All: Look to God's commandments and taste their sweetness...

One: Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

All: Look to creation's order and know justice...

One: But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

All: Look to grace and know its forgiveness...

One: Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

All: Look to what brings life and live its example...

One: Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

All: Look to God's covenant and know its love...

One: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O God, my rock and my redeemer.

All: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

A Story for the Child in All of Us

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17 Sue Myers

Moses receives God's Commandments

Second Reading John 2:13-22 Pastor Katie

Jesus cleanses the Temple

The Message *Where Do We Find God?* Pastor Katie

*Hymn: "Savior, Who Dying Gave" #452 (NCH)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Generosity

*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.

***Blessing Our Gifts**

One: God of the wilderness, We give these offerings in gratitude,

All: rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

One: We give these offerings in faith,

All: trusting that you will provide for our needs.

One: We give these offerings in hope,

All: knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

One: And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

All: May we live with generous hearts, with open hands.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

We hear the echo of the tables being overturned.... The marching feet of those who continue to cry out for justice and a new way. We hear the cries of those who look at the cross and all it represents as foolish and old fashioned. But still we hope. We remember another table...we remember other cries... and still we hope. Today, we gather together this table, and we remember. We remember the stories of hope and help. We remember the calls for justice and mercy. We remember that, in Jesus, God calls us to embrace life in a new way.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: May the Lord of the journey be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Pilgrims of God, lift up your hearts.

All: We offer them to the One who denied himself to carry us into life forever.

One; Sing songs of thanksgiving to the God who is faithful in keeping promises.

All: We offer glad anthems of joy to the One who calls us by name.

O God, out of that barrenness called chaos you called into life all that is good and true: Your face shining in the starlight, your voice echoing in the crashing waves, your heart, your hopes, your love poured into those created in your image. Showering them with peace and mercy, you began to teach them all they needed in order to live in hope, and in joy, with you. But setting their minds on all the desires which temptation revealed to them, they began to turn away from you, denying your dreams for them, as we thought only of ourselves. You continued to speak of your promises, sending the prophets into all the barren places where we lived and worked and dreamed, but we were ashamed of the words they spoke, and would not listen to the love which formed them. So, you asked the One called the Word to leave your side and walk before you, coming to live with us.

And so, we join our voices with those from every time and in every place, on earth as it is in heaven, who forever call out your praises:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of mountaintops.
The heavens join all creation to tell of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who is foolish for our sake.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, God of Abraham and Sarah; God of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. You are blessed forever. When Jesus could have stumbled over our distrust, he called us to follow him into your promises; when our rejection could have weakened his faith, he grew strong in his commitment to deny himself; when he could have remained silent, he declared your salvation to all, even to those not yet alive; when he could have hidden his face in fear, he turned towards Jerusalem, going to his death and into the grave, that you might give life to all who had died to sin.

As we come to the Table he has prepared, we declare that in his crucifixion and resurrection we find that mystery we call faith:

**All: Christ died, the rock which broke sin's power;
Christ was raised, death conquered by our redeemer;
Christ will return, desiring us more than anything in
all creation.**

Here, at this Table, where the gifts of the bread and the cup are offered to your children gathered around, pour out your Spirit of healing and hope.

Feed us with the food of heaven which can make us whole once more, so we can go to serve all whom we have treated with contempt. Nourish us with the cup of life which can change us into your faithful people, so we can go to bring healing to those disabled by our prejudices. Let us always remember that we are connected by faith and we remember those connections whenever we join our voices in our common prayer:

The Lord's Prayer

The Story

One: The Lenten roads are long yet full of gifts. The Lenten paths often seem chilly yet warm with the winds of the Spirit. The Spirit of God is the light that leads us in the hushed nights. The Christ is our companion on the journey in the intense sunlight of day. We remember his time in the wilderness- The struggles. The hunger. The peace.

And as we seek the Divine in our midst, On this journey, we crave the bread of life. On our desert roads, we thirst for the fruit of the vine, the cup of blessings. Through Jesus the Christ's story, we remember the night before his arrest, The night of serenity, solemnity, and love.

Jesus took in his hands bread from the table. He broke it and blessed it.

All: *Eat in remembrance of me, he said.*

And after supper, As the night grew long, Jesus took a cup, and filled it with the fruit of the vine. As he blessed it, he spoke aloud to them.

All: *Take and drink and always remember me.*

May the Spirit who traveled with Christ in the wilderness And fills us with the hope of God. Surround these elements. May the Spirit speak to us in this season of wilderness
Becoming our strength on this journey and filling our lives with love. Amen.

The Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Divine Light of Our Journey- In a spirit of gratitude we give thanks for this time at your Holy Meal. This time at the Table filled us with strength. Knowing that as we continue on this Lenten journey, We will find your peace surrounding us.

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

***Closing Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory"
(#436 NCH) Verses 1-4**

***Benediction**

One: Go into the world without fear,
knowing that the weakness of the Holy is stronger than every human power.
Live free!
And the God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt,

and leads us towards new life and new hope
will be your strength and your power.

All: Amen

***Carrying the Light into the World**

***Prelude to Service:**

Instrumental music by Hannah Matthews

Worship Notes and Resources:

Sources: adapted from - ucc.org/worshipways.org;
<https://knoxoakville.com/bulletin/>, <https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/72d2e444/files/uploaded/Service%20Bulletin%2002-21-2021%20with%20announcements.pdf>

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Leadership

Katie Penick	Pastor
Hannah Matthews	Director of Music
Sue Myers	Lay Reader
Deb Persinger	Worship Committee
Sandy Sanders	
Hannah Matthews	
MB Brainerd	

**A brief Congregational meeting will be held
following worship to vote on the boiler.**

***One Great Hour of Sharing offering next
Sunday!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for next week:

March 10 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Repairing ! For Such a Time as This

Week Four: Loved

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

Message – *So Loved*

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

Submission Dates for Bulletins/Newsletter

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday

April Newsletters - Monday, March 18

Meeting Dates

Consistory – Wednesday, March 6 @ 7pm

Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month @ 3:30.

Budget Information:

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

Giving for last week: \$893.08 Attendance: 30

Building Fund/Fundraising:\$60.00

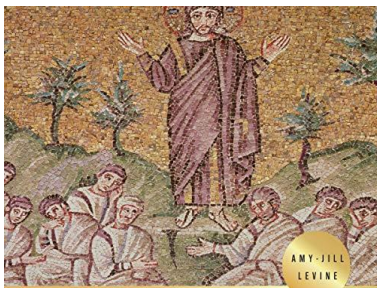
*Please give in the various ways we offer for you to give
your financial offerings to Trinity. We are lagging in our
giving and hope that we can re-gain the generous level of
giving we are accustomed to receiving.*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns

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

Prayer requests:

Jeff Brooks and family by Leslie Brooks
Mike Brooks, cousin of Jeff Brooks
Lisa Frederick
Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity
Matt Goon, cousin of Karen Price
Bonnie and Norman Greenholtz
James Penick, Pastor Katie's father
Mary and George Pietsch
Ken Plummer, brother of Gloria Nethkin
Leah, friend of Donna Alban
Pat Robinette, sister of Gloria Nethkin
Carol Sheffler, friend of Belva LaMotte
Martha Tallent, Pastor Katie's Godmother
Claire Vey, member of Trinity
Robert Yeoman, friend of Pastor Katie



SERMON *on*
the MOUNT

A RECORDING OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Please plan to join us. The first five sessions are by Zoom and the final session will be in person before worship on Palm Sunday. Please see Pastor Katie for more information or if you would like a book.

Sessions:

March 5 7:00pm (zoom)
March 12 7:00 pm (zoom)
March 19 7:00 pm (zoom)
March 24 9:45 am (in-person)



Easter Flower Sponsor Sheet

Please pick up a sponsor sheet today
in the narthex.

The Shepherd's Staff

Beloved Ministerium Fellowship:

Just want to highlight The Shepherd's Staff upcoming lent ministries and the flyers that Brenda Meadows sent out last week:

- 1) **Empty Bowls**, Sunday April 7 -- Shepherd's Staff main annual fundraiser, is scheduled for April 7 this year and tickets to the event and sponsorships of the event are both open. (Please see the attached flyer.)
- 2) Collecting baskets to be made up into Easter Baskets and "stuff" to fill the baskets with as well. Information regarding such including appointments and distribution the two weeks before Easter is on the attached flyer. Also attached are "check off" tags to place on the baskets, should your congregation decide to put together baskets on their own.

Please let Brenda Meadows know if you have any questions. 410-857-5944 brenda.meadows@shepstaff.org



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. Katie Penick

Cell: 240-418-8028

E-mail: pastorkt143@gmail.com

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 – Sandy Sanders

Secretary – Debra Miller

Treasurer – Sue Myers

Assistant Treasurer – Debra Miller

