



**Trinity United Church
of Christ
Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 6, 2025
10:30 a.m.
For God's Sake!**

In-Person Worship FB Live Streaming

**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 fullness of joy is to
behold God in everything. God is the ground, the
substance, the teaching, the teacher, the purpose, and the
reward for which every soul labors~ Julian of Norwich
(1342-1416)

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

*As you enter, please take a nut from the bowl.
It was in a small round hazelnut that Julian saw all of creation*

As I was seeing the vision of Christ's bleeding head, he gave me
a Spiritual insight into his comforting love.

Christ is everything we need –

Christ is our clothing,
wrapping us in love

Christ embraces us,
shelters us,

surrounds us with tender love.

Christ will never desert us!

And then Christ showed me a tiny, round thing. It was about the
size of a hazelnut, which I held in the palm of my hand. And I
wondered, "What might this be? How can this last? It is so tiny, it
could just fade into nothing!"

This is the answer that came to me.

"In this small thing is all of creation! It lasts and it always will last
because God loves it. In this way all creation lasts because God
made it, God cares for it, God loves it."

*Please begin your worship in quiet contemplation of all that God
has made.*

Prelude: Instrumental Music

Words of Welcome Pastor Katie

Announcements, Joys and Concerns Pastor Katie

***Call to Community** Sylvia Calabrese
(Julian: Revelations of Love)

One: It is part of our human nature to desire God, and it
is part of God's nature to desire us.

**All: We can never stop yearning for God until we
are possessed by God in the fullness of love.**

One: God is all that is good, and God made all that is made,
and God loves every part of it. If you love all people because of
God's love, then you love each created thing, because you love
the creator. For God is in every person, and every person is in
God. If you love in this way, you love all.

All: Amen

***Opening Hymn: "All Will Be Well" (verses 1-5)**
adapted by Steven Warner

Prayer: All Is Well (Julian: Revelations of Love)

One: "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

All: "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. Everything passes away except God."

One: "If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love."

All: "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. Everything passes away except God."

One: It is God's purpose that we be delighted--that we enjoy the gift of wholeness--that we be comforted and strengthened through grace.

All: We are God's happiness and delight. And God is our happiness and delight. Amen

A Story for the Child in All of Us

Children are dismissed for Children's Church

Jesus, Remember Me – Taizé (Repeat)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Sylvia Calabrese

Revelations of Love Chapters 15 & 26

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the

Only Begotten into the world, that we might have faith through the Anointed One.

No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

Again, our Lord showed himself to me, this time more glorious than I had seen him before. I learned that our soul will never find rest until it comes to the fullness of Christ's joy. So Christ said, again and again,

"I AM the one.

I AM the one.

I AM the one most honored.

I AM the one you love.

I AM the one you enjoy.

I AM the one you serve.

I AM the one you long for.

I AM the one you desire.

I AM the one you yearn for.

I AM the one who is everything.

I AM the one whom the holy church preaches and teaches.

I AM the one who showed myself to you."

There were so many words, I couldn't understand them all. But the joy I had in listening to those words went far beyond anything I could think or desire. I won't try to explain them, but, as the grace of God gives you love and understanding, you will know what God means.

Second Reading John 12:1-8 Pastor Katie
Mary Anoints Jesus

The Message *Pastor Katie*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

Invitation to Generosity

***Choral Response Doxology for Humanity**
(verse 4) by Kurt Struckmeyer (Tune: #780)

***Blessing Our Gifts**

All: O God, all that we have and all that we are belong to you, and the giving is a blessing in itself. We dedicate this day, not only the things we can put in a plate, but also the things we cannot touch: our hearts, our spirits, our passion, our strength. Use them, and us, to restore the fortunes of all your people: to seek your will, to strengthen your church, and to serve you faithfully. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

***Hymn of Preparation “Be Still My Soul” #566 (Chalice)**

Invitation

Third Reading *Revelations of Love Chapter 15*

I saw that God took great, spiritual delight in my soul. Because of that, I felt so strong, so spiritual that I was completely at ease.

My laughter and delight only lasted for a short while. Then I found myself changed. I felt abandoned. Depressed. Weary of life. But after a while, God gave me comfort again, so that I felt no fear, no depression, no physical or spiritual pain.

When I was feeling joy, I could have said with Saint Paul, “Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ.” When I was depressed I could have said with Saint Peter, “Lord, save me. I am dying.”

I knew joy one moment and pain the next. I was given this experience for a reason. Sometimes God leaves us on our own for the good of our soul. Sometimes God brings us joy and sometimes pain, but both are one love. Joy lasts, but pain is passing. God doesn’t want us to feel pain, but wants us to pass right by that pain and live in God’s endless love..

The Story

The Meal

Abba Prayer

All: Heavenly Mother, Heavenly Father

Holy and blessed is your true name.

We pray for your reign of peace to come.

We pray that your good will be done.

Let heaven and earth become one.

Give us this day the bread we need.

Give it to those who have none.

Let forgiveness flow like a river between us

From each one to each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence

Beyond the evil of our days:

Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.

For yours is the power And the mercy, and the glory.

Forever your name is all one. Amen.

Time of Anointing

*You are invited to come forward for a prayer
and anointing on the hand or forehead.*

You may also come forward for a personal blessing.

Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn: "This is God's Wondrous World"
#180 (Voices Together)**

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

***Benediction**

One: Let our God of Goodness be enough for you. Ask for nothing less, for if you ask for less than God you will always be left wanting.

All: In God: All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you

receive the peace of Christ and share Christ's peace as you depart.

***Carrying the Light into the World**

Prelude to Service: Instrumental music

Worship Notes and Resources

Adapted from [https://pastordawn.com/wp-](https://pastordawn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1-Julian-of-Norwich.pdf)

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Julian of Norwich

Although Julian lived in a time of turmoil, her theology was optimistic, speaking of God's love in terms of joy and compassion as opposed to law and duty. For Julian, suffering was not a punishment that God inflicted, as was the common understanding. She believed that God loved and wanted to save everyone. Popular theology, magnified by current events including the Black Death and a series of peasant revolts, asserted that God was punishing the wicked. In response, Julian suggested a more merciful theology, which some say leaned towards universal salvation. She believed that behind the reality of hell is a greater mystery of God's love. In modern times, she has been classified as a proto-universalist, although she did not claim more than hope that all might be saved. Although Julian's views were not typical, local authorities did not challenge either her theology or her authority because of her status as an anchoress. The lack of references to her work during her own time may indicate that religious authorities did not count her worthy of refuting, since she did not have much power as a woman. Julian's theology was unique in three aspects: her view of sin, her belief that God is all love and no wrath, and her view of Christ as mother. According to Julian, God is both our mother and our father. This idea was also developed by Francis of Assisi in the thirteenth century. Similarly, Julian saw no wrath in God. She believed wrath existed only in humans but that God forgives us for this. She writes, "For I saw no wrath except on man's side, and He forgives that in us, for wrath is nothing else but a perversity and an opposition to peace and to love".

From: "Love Poems From God" Daniel Ladinsky, Penguin
Compass, Lenten Evening Prayer

Leadership

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for next week:

Palm Sunday

Psalm 118 1-2, 19- 29
Luke 19:28-40
Meditation with Ashby

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
May Newsletters - Monday, April 21

Meeting Dates by Zoom

Consistory – May 7 @ 6 pm
Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month @ 3:30.

Pastor Katie Sabbath Day will be on Fridays! She will not be available on that day. If there is an emergency text, her @ 240-418-8028

Budget Information:

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

Giving for March 23, 2025: \$1,676.12

Giving for Last Week: \$685.77

Attendance:22

Care Fund/Building: \$35.00

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:

Shawn Baker
Vivan Bowser
Mike Brooks, cousin of Jeff Brooks
Ezra Garber
Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity
Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie
Bonnie and Norman Greenholtz
Ash Van Nuys
Jennifer Penick
Leah, friend of Donna Alban
Wendi Saltsman, friend of Belva LaMotte
Jean Simmons
Becky Smith, niece of Karen Price
Gina Tollini
Ronnie Williams
Nora Renee Winters
Shirley Wood

Lenten Challenge

Lent for 2025 starts on Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 5th and ends on Holy Saturday, April 19th. This period represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness and is a time for us to reflect, fast, and give penance as we prepare for the resurrection of Christ on Easter morning, April 20th.

Here is our challenge. Each day during Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it in a trash bag.* At the end of Lent, bring your bag(s) of items to church to donate to someone who can really use them. The donations will be taken to NESAP.

*There will be bags available at the front entrance to the church beginning February 23rd. You may use your own bag(s) but please nothing larger than the 13 gallon size. Please contact Sandy Sanders with any questions. 443.974.6723 Thank you!



Tuesday Bible Study starting April 22, at 10 am
Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.
@Trinity and by Zoom
Zoom links are available for all Bible Study



Dates are April 1, 8, and 13

The book club will be meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. And Sunday April 13 at 9:15. We will read *Meeting Jesus at the Table* by Cynthia M Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr, This will be hybrid. Those who gather in-person will have a shared meal.

Please let Pastor Katie know if you are interested.

The Breakfast Club

Starting Saturday, April 12 @ 10 am

Each week, you will make new friends and learn about God with children and youth from different churches! To register for the zoom link email: pastort143@gmail.com

DROP IN YOGA

Saturdays at 10:30 am (1 hour class)
At Trinity UCC - \$5 per class

April 26
May 10 and 24
June 7 and 21
July 12 and 26
August 9 and 23
September 6



EASTER PARTY

**Cohosted by
St. Matthew's UCC
and Trinity UCC**

WHEN:

Saturday April 19, 2025

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

WHERE:

**Trinity United Church of Christ
3329 York Street Manchester**

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:

**Egg Hunt, Cupcake Walk;
Fun Activities, and
A Calming Closing Meditation**

**BUY A BRICK
CAMPAIGN**



Pathway to Prayer

We will be finalizing all sales for The Brick Garden Walkway for this year. If you haven't turned in your order yet please do so by **April 30, 2025**. We are using the same company and they have agreed to keep the price at \$100. What better way to honor or remember a loved one or simply provide a verse that is dear to your heart. Order forms are available in the Narthex. See Karen Price or Sue Myers with any questions.

Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

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Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net

Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

President – Sandy Sanders

Vice President – Hannah Matthews

Secretary – Shana Clark

Treasurer – Sue Myers

