



**Trinity United Church
of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Longing for Wholeness
March 15, 2026
10:30 am**

**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 : "To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that love is the reason for my existence, for God is love." ~Thomas A. Kempis~

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Gathering

Feel the Spirit of the community. Worship is a time of both shared community and private conversation with God. Let us all come to this sacred space to enjoy both the loving fellowship of our common faith and the prayerful quiet that will allow us all to draw closer to God.

Prelude: Instrumental Music

Words of Welcome Pastor Katie

Announcements, Joys and Concerns Pastor Katie

***Call to Community**

Shana Clark

One: Beloved of God, of leadership is called forth and God calls upon the least likely, the unheard of, and the humble of heart to assemble to receive anointing.

Many: In peace, we anoint the forgotten, the youngest, smallest, and unlikeliest of siblings whom God has raised up to serve.

One: Though the call may involve risk and danger, we are called to listen, obey, and live a love unwavering.

Many: In peace, we anoint the disinherited and dismissed.

One: God's call does not depend on our outward appearance or our earthly achievements.

Many: In peace, we anoint neighbor and kin alike, knowing God looks upon the heart. Let us open our hearts to God! Amen

***Prayer for Peace: Sand**

One: In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering that life was brought forth from the ground in our creation, and that new life for one man was created when Jesus took mud from the ground and made a blind man see. As his eyes were opened for the first time, so our eyes are opened to the need for hope and healing in our world. We light this candle on this fourth Sunday of Lent, remembering God's promise for all of us, new life here on earth, and eternal life hereafter.

Light four candles

All: As the days lengthen, dear God, may we remember that it is you who gives us new life on earth, that we might know your love and peace, and share your love with the world. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

Many: **And also with you**

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

***Opening Hymn: "Come Away from Rush and Hurry"
#9 (Voices Together)**

Modern Testimony

Spring, Mary Oliver

Somewhere
a black bear
has just risen from sleep
and is staring

down the mountain.
All night
in the brisk and shallow restlessness
of early spring

I think of her,
her four black fists
flicking the gravel,
her tongue

like a red fire
touching the grass,
the cold water.
There is only one question:

how to love this world.
I think of her
rising
like a black and leafy ledge

to sharpen her claws against
the silence
of the trees.
Whatever else

my life is
with its poems
and its music
and its glass cities,

it is also this dazzling darkness
coming
down the mountain,
breathing and tasting;

all day I think of her —
her white teeth,
her wordlessness,
her perfect love.

~silence is kept~

Growing Disciples

***Jesus Remember Me Taizé (REPEAT)**

Children are dismissed for Children's Church

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Ancient Testimony Ephesians 5:8-14 Shana Clark
Live as children of light

***Choral Response** "Thy Word" (sing through 3x)

Ancient Testimony John 9:1-41 Pastor Katie
The man born blind

The Message *Amazing Grace* *Pastor Katie*

*** Hymn of affirmation**
"For Everyone Born A Place at the Table"
(verses 1, 3, 4, & 6)

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

Invitation to Generosity

***Choral Response of Thanksgiving**
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (verse 4)
88 (Voices Together)

***Blessing Our Gifts**
All: Giver of all good things, let your grace flow through us; a generous stream, unstoppable, refreshing, abundant. We release these gifts into your river of love, flowing out to all the world. Amen.

Meditation with Ashby

The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn: "Amazing Grace" 547 NCH**

MOVING TOWARDS PEACE ON EARTH!

*** Benediction**

Prelude to Service

***Carrying the Light into the World**

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

***JUST A REMINDER WHEN YOU SEE AN ASTERISK *
THE CONGREGATION IS TO STAND.**

**PLEASE NOTE OUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS
CHANGED TO: officetuccmd@gmail.com**

Worship Notes and Resources

Adapted from Microsoft Word - <https://stillpointsa.org.au/>,
Lenten Candle Lighting Liturgy Year A, [Lent 4A - March 19](#)
[Spring poem - Mary Oliver- United Church of Christ](#)
The music in our worship is reproduced via our One License
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Leadership

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

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Today!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for March 22, 2026

March 22 – 5th Sunday of Lent

Ancient Testimony Ezekiel 37:1-14
The dry bones of Israel

Ancient Testimony John 11:1-45
The raising of Lazarus

The Message *When God is late*

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 23

Meeting Dates by Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday April 1 @ 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 Last Week: \$1,592.96 Attendance: 25
Care Fund/Building: \$35.00

We offer various ways to give – cash, checks, or on-line at our website www.trinityuccmanchester.org. Your generous giving allows us to continue our ministries.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns

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

Prayer requests:

Carolyn Brooks
Annie Durnell
Joanna Garber
Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity

Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie
Paul Matthews, Hannah's father
Sandy Hall, sister of Deb Miller
George Harman, nephew of Karen Price
Jerry Krebs, friend of Deb Persinger
Michael Kulp
Gloria Nethkin
Ash Van Nuys
Jennifer Penick
Gordon Persinger
George Pietsch
Marc Pulido
Leah, friend of Donna Alban
Beth Robert
Jean Simmons
Becky & Willy Smith, niece of Karen Price
Dan and Terry Smith
Randy Smith
Kathleen Stevens
Gina Tollini
Ronnie Williams
Nora Renee Winters
Shirley Wood

Please look over the prayer list to see if there are any updates that need to be made. Thank you!

Bible Study

Bible Study **Thursday's at 6:30 PM** and will be alternate Thursday's meeting both in person and remotely.



Sunday Morning Bible Study
at 9:30 a.m. @Trinity and by Zoom
Zoom links are available for all Bible Study



Bedtime stories on Wednesday at 7 pm.

Lenten Challenge

Declutter and help our neighbors! During Lent this year, we want to de-emphasize ourselves and emphasize our dependence on God. Almsgiving (materially giving to those in need) is one of the three pillars of Lent (the other two pillars are prayer and fasting). We can give in ways other than money. This year, we are calling Trinity members and friends to give up things around the house that we do not need. We can detach from "stuff" while helping others.

Here's the challenge: During the 40 days of Lent (every day but Sundays), find one thing each day you no longer need. It can be a kitchen item, clothing, a bike, etc. Go through your closets, drawers, basement and garage. We also will accept non-perishable foods. All donations will be blessed on Easter Sunday and donated to NESAP.

As we clear out our closets, we can also clear our minds. As we declutter, we can think about and pray for those who will be blessed by our donations.

New Members

New members will join on **March 28 (Palm Sunday)**
With fellowship to follow worship!



Game Time! Saturday, June 6th at 6pm

**The Frederick Keys vs. The Hudson Valley
Renegades**

Tickets are \$11. Fireworks display following the game.

Contact Sandy Sanders 443.974.6723 if you would like to join the group from Trinity UCC who will be attending.

Media Help Wanted

The media team is looking for persons to assist with the live stream of our Sunday services on the church's Facebook page.

You do not need to commit to every Sunday. Our current operators, Karen & Elwin will provide training and support.

Please see Sandy Sanders, Karen Haines or Elwin Wagner for more information.

Thank you in advance for considering to help with this valuable piece of our worship service.
Please pass on to any one you know in High School who may need community service hours.

DROP IN YOGA

Starting April 11 @ 9a.m.

See the flyer for more information

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 – officetuccmd@gmail.com

Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

President – Sandy Sanders

Vice President – Hannah Matthews

Secretary – Shana Clark

Treasurer – Sue Myers

