



**Trinity United Church  
of Christ  
Third Sunday of Lent  
Longing for Wholeness  
March 8, 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* If you don't have any shadows,  
you're not in the light.~ Lady Gaga~

**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**

MB Brainerd

One: Come, all who are thirsty, all who are weary and all who carry the heavy dust of a restless world

**Many: We come seeking a moment of stillness; we come seeking the waters that refresh and restore.**

One: In the desert places of our lives, where worry parches the spirit and conflict drains the soul, the Source of Living Water flows. It is not a trickle but a flowing river... an eternal spring.

**Many: Open our hearts to the quiet current of your Spirit, Let the peace that passes all understanding wash over us.**

One: Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you." This is the living water that quenches our thirst and transforms the land we stand on.

**Many: May we drink deeply today. May we be refreshed to love, renewed to serve and calmed by the presence of the One who is our true Peace. Amen.**

**\*Prayer for Peace: Water**

One: In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering all the ways God throughout history has delivered the people, through the Red Sea, crossing the river Jordan, and through the waters of our rebirth at our baptism. We know Christ is the spring of living water, and through Christ we will never thirst again for eternal life. We light this candle on this third Sunday of Lent, remembering God's love for us through his son Jesus the Christ, that we might have new life in him.

*Light three candles*

**All: As the days lengthen and the rivers fill with spring waters, dear God, may we be filled with your love. Let wellsprings of living water spring up in us. 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: "Down at the Cross" #189 NCH**

**Modern Testimony**      *Life Goes On*, Howard Thurman

During these turbulent times we must remind ourselves repeatedly that life goes on.

This we are apt to forget.

The wisdom of life transcends our wisdoms;

the purpose of life outlasts our purposes;

the process of life cushions our processes.

The mass attack of disillusion and despair,

distilled out of the collapse of hope,

has so invaded our thoughts that what we know to be true and valid seems unreal and ephemeral.

There seems to be little energy left for aught but futility.

This is the great deception.

By it whole peoples have gone down to oblivion

without the will to affirm the great and permanent strength of the clean and the commonplace.

Let us not be deceived.

It is just as important as ever to attend to the little graces by which the dignity of our lives is maintained and sustained.

Birds still sing;

the stars continue to cast their gentle gleam over the desolation of the battlefields,

and the heart is still inspired by the kind word and the gracious deed.

There is no need to fear evil.

There is every need to understand what it does,

how it operates in the world,

what it draws upon to sustain itself.

We must not shrink from the knowledge of the evilness of evil.

Over and over we must know that the real target of evil is not destruction of the body,

the reduction to rubble of cities;

the real target of evil

is to corrupt the spirit of man and to give his soul the contagion of inner disintegration.

When this happens,

there is nothing left,

the very citadel of people is captured and laid waste.

Therefore, the evil in the world around us must not be allowed to move from without to within.

This would be to be overcome by evil.

To drink in the beauty that is within reach,  
to clothe one's life with simple deeds of kindness,  
to keep alive a sensitiveness to the movement of the spirit of  
God  
in the quietness of the human heart and in the workings of the  
human mind—  
this is as always the ultimate answer to the great deception.

*Using the piece of paper that you were provided, write down something you would like to let go of during this Lenten season. Come forward to the baptismal font and put the paper into it,. Stir it and watch it disappear!*

*~silence is kept~*

### **Growing Disciples**

**\*Jesus Remember Me Taizé (REPEAT)**

Children are dismissed for Children's Church

### ***WE HEAR GOD'S WORD***

**Ancient Testimony** Genesis 17: 1-7 MB Brainerd  
*Water in the wilderness*

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

**Ancient Testimony** John 4:5-42 Pastor Katie  
*The Samaritan Woman at the Well*

**The Message** *The Living Waters Flow* Pastor Katie

**\*Hymn of Grace** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #190 NCH

### ***WE RESPOND IN LOVE***

**Invitation to Generosity**

**\*Choral Response of Thanksgiving**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (verse 3)  
88 (Voices Together)

**\*Blessing Our Gifts**

**All:** May these blessings flow down like ever flowing streams, O God, and may they multiply and be a blessing to all who are touched by them. May they restore hope and wholeness; justice and peace; faith and hope. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"**  
#199 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.***

## **Worship Notes and Resources**

**Adapted from** Microsoft Word - <https://stillpointsa.org.au/>,  
Lenten Candle Lighting Liturgy Year A,  
<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/worship-resources/worship-ways-2/>, /  
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4556/worship-connection-march-23-2014>, "[Life Goes On:](#)" A Meditation from [Howard Thurman - AAIHS](#)

The music in our worship is reproduced via our One License number: A-725765.

## **Leadership**

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

## ***One Great Hour of Sharing Offering March 15!***

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Worship at Trinity UCC for March 8, 2026**

**March 15 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Ancient Testimony    Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Live as children of light*

**Ancient Testimony    John 9:1-41**

*The man born blind*

**The Message    *Amazing Grace***

## **Scrip Gift Cards**

Please consider taking part in this program.

Orders go in the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.

See Sue Myers for more information, 443-375-6788 or

[wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto: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: \$1,508.08**

**Attendance: 34**

**Care Fund/Building: \$35.00**

***We offer various ways to give – cash, checks, or on-line at our website [www.trinityuccmanchester.org](http://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

Family Baptist Church

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

### **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!

### **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 will be notified by a text message or phone call if the church will not be opened.



**2026 Schedule**

	<b>Friday 7pm</b>	<b>Saturday 6pm</b>
<b>June</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Hudson Valley Renegades	6 <sup>th</sup> Hudson Valley Renegades
	19 <sup>th</sup> Hub City Spartanburgers	20 <sup>th</sup> Hub City Spartenburgers
<b>July</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Brooklyn Cyclones	4 <sup>th</sup> Brooklyn Cyclones
	10 <sup>th</sup> Jersey Shore Blueclaws	11 <sup>th</sup> Jersey Shore Blueclaws
	31 <sup>st</sup> Wilmington Blue Rocks	
<b>August</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> Wilmington Blue Rocks
	14 <sup>th</sup> Bowling Green Hot Rods	15 <sup>th</sup> Bowling Green Hot Rods
	28 <sup>th</sup> Asheville Tourists	29 <sup>th</sup> Asheville Tourists

**Tickets are \$11 each for a group of 10+ Please contact Sandy Sanders 443.974.6723 if interested in attending a game and inform Sandy which date(s) are best for you. These tickets go fast so please let Sandy know asap.**

**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: [pastortk143@gmail.com](mailto:pastortk143@gmail.com)

Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – [trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net](mailto:trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net)

Website – [www.trinityuccmanchester.org](http://www.trinityuccmanchester.org)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC)

President – Sandy Sanders

Vice President – Hannah Matthews

Secretary – Shana Clark

Treasurer – Sue Myers

