

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 23, 2017

8:15AM

*Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. We seek to offer a warm greeting to our visitors, whether you are visiting the area or seeking a church family. To assist you as you worship, we have large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Please see an usher for assistance. We would be happy for you to sign the guest book in the gathering area while you are with us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, we are glad that you have come, and pray that you will be blessed by your worship experience. Come and see what God is doing!*

*\*denotes the congregation standing as you are able; congregational responses in bold print*

What are the alternatives to doubt? One alternative is faith. But another is lethargy, a vague and nonchalant acceptance of what one has been taught. It's possible to believe—sort of—without actually being enthusiastically convinced. It's possible to go through life going through the motions of church, mouthing the beliefs, and living a decent life without really wrestling with the central tenets of the faith. Thomas didn't just "go along" with his fellow disciples. He challenged their claim and didn't give up until he was personally satisfied. He was intent on finding the truth, wherever the truth would lead.

PRELUDE – “Now the Green Blade Rises” – *D. Cherwien*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We have entered this place in confident expectation.

Let us be open to the One who greets us here.

Do not doubt. The miracle is real.

**Do not doubt. Christ is right beside us.**

Do not doubt. The Spirit breathes hope.

**Do not doubt. God's peace is among us.**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**We come today with thanksgiving on our lips and in our hearts,  
for we know that Christ's life has become our life;  
that his resurrection has become our resurrection;  
that his hope has become our hope;  
that his victory has become our victory;  
that his triumph has become our triumph,  
that his joy has become our joy.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 238 - “Now the Green Blade Rises”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

In the midst of doubt, we are called to trust.

**But trust is sometimes difficult.**

Yet God's promises are secure.

**We can even confess our lack of trust and know we are heard.**

With confidence then, let us make our humble confession to Almighty God.

**Our news reports are filled with stories of crises and tragedy.**

**Our own lives are filled with uncertainty and worry.**

**Incidents in our lives and in the lives of others sometimes cause us to doubt.**

**We confess that in the midst of trouble, we have sometimes  
been tempted to give up and follow another path.**

**Forgive us if we have wandered, restore us to the confidence  
of a life of faith, and share with us the joy of our salvation.**

**For we ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.**

Now let us silently reflect on the personal sins and fears that keep us from being fully free.

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY

**Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice that is more than liberty.

Receive freedom from the burden of your guilt, and  
live in the freedom that is yours through Christ.

**Thank God for this magnificent gift of love.**

\*Response # 236 - "Halleluja" (*sing twice*)

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, Halleluja.**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halleluja, hallelujah.**

\*Affirmation of Faith

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our  
loving God, let us express our intentions to live as God's people:

**We wish to place others before ourselves. We wish to place ethics before expediency.**

**We wish to rate principle as being more important than pleasure. We wish to seek  
generosity rather than greed. We wish to value love as higher than lust. We wish**

**to place character before charisma. We wish to place Christ before all.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

HYMN # 237 - "I Come to the Garden Alone"

QUIET PREPARATION

THE SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

For we ask it in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever. Amen**

PRAYER RESPONSE # 769 - "Hear Our Prayer"  
Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Our tithes and offerings are a visible and tangible sign of our response to the love of the Holy One for us.  
May we respond to the mercy we have received with grateful thanksgiving and generosity.

*Please sign the Registration Booklet at the end of each pew, then pass it to the next person. Thank you!*

Offertory – "Wherever You Go" – *B. Hamm*

\* Doxology # 781

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We consider it a privilege not only to receive, but also to share and to give.  
Accept these tithes and offerings as a token of our love for you and for others.**

\*CLOSING HYMN # 245 "The Day of Resurrection"

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Without fear or hesitation, entrust your life to God, because  
the Lord is the source of life, of hope, of pardon, and of peace.

\* POSTLUDE – "Celebrate!" – *R. Frey*