

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
April 23, 2017
10:30 AM

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*

We offer a warm welcome to the young men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity of Gettysburg College and other friends this morning. Together we are responding to an unmet need in the community through sponsoring Undie Sunday. Many times we think that somehow a fraternity and a church are very different from each other. But in the midst of those differences, we hold some things in common with a care and a concern for our fellow members, a sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves, and a desire to reach out to respond to the needs of others. So we celebrate this day together and are just glad that we can work toward a common goal.

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

CHOIR PRELUDE
“This is the Day”
By John Purifoy
Words from Psalm 118
Senior Choir

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song!

A springtime shout-out to new life!

Sing praise to our joyful God,

Whose power brings new life out of death!

Immerse doubt and despair in the fountain of new birth;

Our visions and hopes are refreshed, made new!

For God has taken ordinary things

And made them extraordinary.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Holy God, you have transformed absurd impossibility into reality: resurrection.
You have coaxed us to sing springtime alleluias where once there was a gray dawn.
You have called us out of the tombs we inhabit into an undreamed vision of tomorrow.
We praise you for this day! Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this day.**

*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 promises to be near us even in the midst of our doubts.

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

With confidence then, let us come with humility 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.

Be near to us when we have wandered and restore us

to the confidence of a life lived in your presence, and

share with us the joy of the good news of your love for us.

Now let us silently reflect on the personal struggles 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

doubts, and live in the freedom that is yours through God's presence with you.

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Words and music by Graham Kendrick

Arranged by Mark Hayes

Senior Choir

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Easter teaches us that laughter and love are at the heart of God's work. Joyfully we are able to give knowing that our tithes and offerings will help others to see the blessed miracle of God's creative joy.

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

Can these tithes and offerings, given with love, be further transformed like echoes of grace, delighting all who receive their blessings? May it be so, through the power of your Holy Spirit, and may our lives speak of a God who is still full of Easter surprises. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

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

John 20:19-31

Gettysburg Ensemble - **Drop the Octave**

THE SERMON

Some words from the Community Representative of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, AJ Gentile

*A PRAYER OF HOPE

Holy One, either we have hope within us or we don't. Hope is a dimension of the soul, and it is not particularly dependent on some observation of the world. Hope is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart. It transcends the world that is immediately experienced and is anchored somewhere beyond the horizons. Hope in this deep and powerful sense is not the same as joy that things are going well or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously headed for early success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed. Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out. It is hope above all, which gives us the strength to love and continually try new things.

--Vaclav Havel, 1936-2011, Czech playwright, essayist, poet, philosopher, dissident and statesman.

*CLOSING HYMN “Wherever You Go” (*see insert*)

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*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

**Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the
afflicted; honor all persons; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

* POSTLUDE – “Celebrate!” – *R. Frey*