

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 2, 2017

8:15AM 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*

Death is a constant reality of life; to be born is to face death. We might try to avoid that reality, and many people try, but in the process of denying death we are really denying life. How can we live each day to the fullest if we refuse to acknowledge that those days will, at some point, come to an end? How can we really choose what is important and what priorities should govern our lives? Death is a reality, but it is not the end; how we choose to live out the days we are given, determines how we will spend eternal life.

PRELUDE – “O Thou, in Whose Presence” – J. Boeringer

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

During the storms of life, it's easy to lose our moorings.

During the painful times, it's easy to lose heart.

During the pleasant times, it's easy to feel that God is unnecessary.

That's why it's important to worship, to draw close to God,
to maintain an ongoing relationship with the Almighty.

That's why we are here this morning in church.

When our hearts are dry, empty of love.

Blow new life into us, Holy Spirit.

When our bones are dry, torn by struggle and controversy.

Blow new life into us, Holy Spirit.

When our souls are dry, shriveled into bitterness.

Blow new life into us, Holy Spirit.

Raise us up into hope and inspire us

so that we may receive your new dream for creation.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

As we prepare to worship with joy, gladden our hearts. As we try to comprehend your truth with clarity, sharpen our minds. As we seek to be obedient to your plan for us, mold our wills. As we prepare to do your work in our world, warm our hearts.

***GATHERING HYMN # 433 – “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

The hand of God has brought us together in this place, in this moment in time.

God invites us to look at ourselves and at our church.

How consistently have we opened ourselves to our Creator?

How faithfully have we loved God and neighbor?

Confess with me the unfruitful wastelands of your own experience of faith.

Sometimes, Lord of heaven and earth, we feel like we are participants in Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones. We have lost our vitality. Our souls are dried up. We are burned out. The good we have done seems to be worthless. Our efforts don't seem to be appreciated. We have a negative and even a cynical view of our world. We convey a spirit of negativity to our family and friends. Pardon us, we pray, for our lack of faith, and infuse us with new life and a new sense of purpose. For we ask it in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

And now let us confess in silence those fears that keep us from loving as Christ has loved us.

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. Believe this Good News and live by it.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God, let us say what we believe, using the New Creed. We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus,

The word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's presence,

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus,

Crucified and risen,

Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

(United Church of Canada)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

"O Lord, From the Depths I Cry"

by Hal H. Hopson

Senior Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

HYMN # 223 – “What Wondrous Love”

QUIET PREPARATION

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 “Jesus, Remember Me” (sing twice)

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

“Jesus Remember Me” - Words and Music: Jacques Berthier © 1981, 2005 Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc. agent; All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License A-712060

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.

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

Offertory – “Wondrous Love” – *D. Johnson*

* Offertory Response # 785 “We Give You”

We give you but your own, whate’er the gift may be;

All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we give, O God, we remember the earthly ministry of our Lord, how he went from place to place teaching, healing, and giving hope to people who were in despair.

By our tithes and offerings, we wish to continue the ministry of Christ.

*CLOSING HYMN # 484 – “O Come to Me, You Weary”

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go forth in this confidence, that “if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (*Romans 14: 8*)

* POSTLUDE – “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” – *R. Lau*