

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 26, 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*

One of the real dangers for faithful Christians is to be trapped by memories; we look to the past for our understanding of the faith rather than the present and the future. So we tend to see God at work in the past, but close our eyes to God's presence in this day. God continually acts in ways that call us to grow in new understanding of what faith means to our lives and to the life of the world; to live in faith is always an adventure of great proportions because we do not know where the journey will lead. We do know, however, that God will go with us. The living faith is meant for risk takers and the adventuresome sort, not those who are trapped by the past.

PRELUDE – "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" – C. Callahan

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us come with joy before the One who can bring sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, hope to the discouraged, direction to the wandering, comfort to the sorrowing, and, yes, even life to the dead.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

We ask, Lord, a pure heart, that we may see you; a humble heart, that we may hear you; a loving heart, that we may serve you; and a heart of faith, that we may abide in you.

***GATHERING HYMN # 48 – "Jesus the Christ Says"**

TIME OF CONFESSION

We who are quick to identify wrongdoing in others, are called to confess our own sin. We who are swayed by outward appearances, are challenged to look into our own hearts. We who stumble in self-created shadows, are invited into the light that reveals, in order to be restored to wholeness

Holy God, if we have mocked anyone who spoke with an accent,

forgive us, and create a clean heart within us.

If we have made fun of someone who was disfigured or disabled,

forgive us, and create a clean heart within us.

If we have shunned anyone who was poor or badly dressed,

forgive us, and create a clean heart within us.

If we have judged people on the basis of their appearance or differences from us,

forgive us, and create a clean heart within us.

If we have closed our mind to any viewpoint other than our own,

forgive us, and create a clean heart within us.

If we have failed to honor others as Your unique creation,

forgive us, and create a clean heart within us.

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

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who trust; as far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our fear from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion for us.

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 a the first question and answer from the Heidelberg Catechism.

What Is Your Only Comfort, In Life and In Death?

**That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul,
in life and in death – to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can
fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly
willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

"To Thy Pastures"

by Robert C. Lau

Senior Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

I Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

HYMN # 252 – "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

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"

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THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

We as a congregation know that we have an important ministry in this community.
Let us give our tithes and offerings so we can continue to serve God and others in this place.

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

Offertory – "Go, My Children with My Blessing" – *P. Manz*

* 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, we pray that these tithes and offerings
may be acceptable in your eyes, not only in the amount
we give, but also in the spirit in which they are given.**

*CLOSING HYMN # 82 – "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

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 the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

* POSTLUDE – "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" – *R. Hobby*