

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 12, 2017

Veterans Recognition Service

8:15a 10:30a

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*

As we prepare to worship today, let us pray that we may keep the faith, even in the midst of an unfriendly environment. May we be able to see the beautiful, even in the imperfect and unlovely. May we detect eternal realities, even in the common and ordinary things of each day. May we respond with patience and hope, even in a world filled with anger and injustice. May we be determined to be good stewards and good witnesses, even in a workday world of frustration. May we be able to keep a Christian perspective, even in a society that measures everything in terms of dollars. May we be faithful, even in a world in which we ask questions for which there are no easy answers.

PRELUDE – “Sing Aloud to God” - *Hughes*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The time for sleeping is not yet;
now is the time to serve Christ.

In spite of all obstacles,
indeed because of those obstacles,

the hope of Christ needs to be proclaimed.

Let us light our lamps to fill the darkness,
to fill the darkness with hope;

to show the world there is good news in the midst of present turmoil.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

We are grateful, God and Savior, for new beginnings,

for second and third chances,

for fresh starts,

for additional challenges,

for the opportunity to leave the past behind

and to move on to a brighter tomorrow.

***GATHERING HYMN # 26 – “We Worship You, God”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

God does not disappoint those who come in hope,
nor does God turn away those who approach in faith.

Let us make our confession to God in hope and faith.

Christ of God, we need to confess that we are not ready for you.

**We need to confess that we are not sure we want you
to come just yet and upset our comfortable life.**

**We need to confess that we have not kept
the covenant you gave us to serve creation.**

**We need to confess that we prefer to be asleep
to all the things that matter to you:**

justice, peace, compassion, mercy, generosity.

We confess we need your forgiveness.

Awaken us to repentance and inspire us to stay awake until you come.

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

Salvation is nearer to us than when we first became believers;
the night is far gone, the day is near.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.

*** RESPONSE # 588 “Let Justice Flow like Streams”**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God,

let us affirm our faith, using this passage from the eighth chapter of Romans, and saying:

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

CHILDREN’S TIME

THE WORD OF GOD

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

HYMN – “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” – *(see insert)*

QUIET PREPARATION

TRINITY’S INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR I

Jane Malone

SPECIAL MUSIC

John Lucas

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Beyond words, beyond the battle, beyond the outcry, lies silence.

It is sacred, this silence; and holy, this remembering.

For only silent remembering can carry enough pain and truth together to whisper:

“It is enough. Never again.”

(A time for silent reflection on sacrifices made on our behalf.)

LITANY FOR OUR DEDICATION TO PEACE

In our remembrance we know silence is not enough to change the world.

Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life and life to the full.”

In our remembrance we know silence is not enough to bring peace to the world.

God said, “Behold I make all things new.”

In our remembrance we know silence is not enough to change the minds of leaders.

Paul wrote, “Let your light shine before people.”

In our remembrance we know silence is not enough to change the way we do things.

Jesus said, “This is what I command you: love one another.”

In our remembrance we know silence is not enough to convey the truth of war.

Jesus said, “Every tree is known by the fruit it bears.”

In our remembrance we know silence is not enough but Jesus’ words are.

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who work for peace.”

Jesus also said, “No one has greater love than this - to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Each one of you must do as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

*To our visitors - - the finances of the church are the responsibility of our church members.
As our guests, we ask visitors to simply pass the offering plate to the person sitting next to you in the pew.*

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

OFFERTORY – “This Holy Feast” - *Blake*

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE - # 420 “We Praise You, O God” *(first verse)*

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We give, not because we must, and not because of guilt,
and not because of pressure, and not because of a sense of self-importance,
and not to make ourselves feel good,
but we give gladly with joy in our hearts because we love you, Lord.**

*CLOSING HYMN # # 438 – “When Peace Like a River”

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

May God grant you love in all your relationships;
joy in all your successes,
hope in all your difficulties,
triumph in all your challenges,
and comfort in all your sorrows.

* POSTLUDE – “Procession of the Priests” - *Rossini*