

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
November 19, 2017
Commission of the Search Committee/Pastor Appreciation
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*

“I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.” “I can’t sing, so I didn’t even move my lips.” “I’m not rich, so I didn’t give anything.” “I didn’t have time, so I didn’t make the phone call.” “I can’t teach, so I didn’t volunteer to hand out crayons.” “I’m not a good cook, so I didn’t help set up the tables.” “I’m not popular, so I just stayed in my room.”

PRELUDE – “Come, O Thankful People, Come” – *R. Hobby*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is a day to be truly alive—
alive to the moving of God’s Spirit,
alive to the truths of God’s Word,
and alive to the challenges of a life
that make a positive impact on others.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**We pray this morning for every aspect of our worship experience,
as we sing and as we listen,
as we praise and as we meditate in silence,
as we learn and as we teach,
as we are prayed for and as we pray for others.**

*GATHERING HYMN # 419 – “Now Thank We All Our God”

TIME OF CONFESSION

We are a people who claim to have wisdom
and yet fail to use our gifts in ways that are wise.

We are a people who claim to be understanding
and yet fail to discern God's will for all.

Let us approach our wise and understanding God
as we confess our sin and failure with humility.

We say that we love your law, O God, and yet we fail to keep your commandments.

We often hold back when we should speak up.

We let others take responsibility for our own poor choices and decisions.

We look for scapegoats and then send them out into the wilderness.

We turn our backs on those in need and offer excuses for our lack of involvement.

It is so much easier, O God to do our things rather than your things.

Forgive us, Wise and Understanding God.

**Help us always to speak for those whose voices are silenced;
to offer assistance in any way that we can.**

Do not forsake us Loving God,

but care for us and direct us to be more like your Christ, in whose Name we pray.

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

As we focus only on our own interests,
our lives are diminished.

But when the Spirit of Christ reigns in us,
life becomes fulfilling and purposeful.

We are God's flock. We have known God's care.

Our cups overflow.

As we experience the forgiveness God offers,
we will respond with faithful service and joyous praise.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.

*** RESPONSE # 510 - "Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You"**

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God, let us say what we believe, using the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF SEARCH COMMITTEE (10:30a)

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM

"A Thankful Heart"

by Mark Patterson

Senior Choir

Georgia Hollabaugh, Flute

THE WORD OF GOD

Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

HYMN # 422 – "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

COMMISSIONING OF SEARCH COMMITTEE (8:15a)

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Some investments last for a few years.

Some investments are for our lifetime.

Some investments can be passed on to our children.

And some investments are for eternity, for they are invested in human souls.

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 – “Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers” – *C. Callahan*

*** 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**

We consider it a privilege to invest our tithes and offerings in a cause that will never fail.
We are investing in human beings,
who are both mortal body and eternal soul,
so we give in confidence that our investment will never be lost.

***CLOSING HYMN # 397 – “Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers”**

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Rekindle the gift of God that is within you...
for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice,
but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

*** POSTLUDE – “Now Thank We all Our God” – *M. Sedio***