

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 7, 2018

Holy Communion – The Baptism of Christ

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*

In Copenhagen, Denmark, stands a most beautiful statue, "The Christus". Done a century and a half ago by Danish sculptor, Bertel Thorvaldsden, this marble interpretation of Christ is one of the world's masterpieces of the sculptor's art. It is said that when the statue was first shown, there was considerable consternation among some who saw it. Somehow, something about the statue did not seem right. It was as though there was some essential quality missing. Then Thorvaldsden explained, "You cannot see Jesus' face unless you kneel at His feet." And so it was. The statue is so artfully designed that to really see it, one must kneel and look up. It is not really seen merely by walking past the statue. So it is with our lives. There are many things which call for more than a passing glance. One does not get a disciple's feel for Christ by casually strolling by. And so we worship. We need it – a time to pause and a time to ponder, a time to kneel and a time to look up.

PRELUDE – "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" – *C. Callahan*

A TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, the Creator of all things needful for body and soul,
who refreshes us with the sparkling water of creation
and who washes away the grime and dust of everyday living,
invites us to come to the fountain of heaven, to be washed in the
baptism of forgiveness, and to drink freely of eternal water.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**In the beginning, O God, you fashioned a universe.
Each star and planet had its beginning in you.
Out of the void you brought light and life.
Through eons of creativity, you have acted,
and today we are here, inheritors of an amazing process,
tiny specks in the limitless reaches of time and space.
And you are here, waiting to greet us.
As you acted in our baptism,
you are acting still to make all things new within us and among us.
Let your light awaken us and your Spirit empower us for faithful living.**

* GATHERING HYMN - "Down Galilee's Slow Roadways" – *(see insert)*

TIME OF CONFESSION

John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
We, who have received the gift of baptism, recognize the need to confess our sins
to remind ourselves of our human frailty and of God's amazing grace.
**Forgive us, Lord God, if we have placed fun before fulfillment;
if we have sought pleasure before purpose;
if we have sought to leave a legacy that does not include love;
if we have viewed all of life as a competition;
if we have placed ourselves before others.
Pardon us, we pray, and help us to set straight our priorities.**

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

A voice from heaven said to Jesus:

"You are my own Child, the Beloved; with you I am well-pleased."

Jesus Christ passed on that gift to those who dared to follow.

We too are beloved children of God, forgiven, loved, and sent on a mission.

All who are truly sorry for their sin are relieved of its burden and are recreated in God's image.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.

*RESPONSE HYMN # 459 - "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

***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.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Through our tithes and offerings we can go to places we will never visit,
we will touch people we will never know,
and we will meet needs that only God understands.

*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 – “O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word” – P. Manz

*** DOXOLOGY**

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. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We pray that as we offer these tithes and offerings,
you will invest them in such a way that bodies will be fed,
children will be educated, families will be strengthened,
lives will be changed, and souls will be saved.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

“The Gift of Love”

Senior Choir

Arr. Hal Hopson

THE WORD OF GOD
Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

HYMN # 168 – “O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word” (TUNE: Tallis Canon)

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

When Jesus sat at table and enjoyed communion
with tax collectors and sinners,

he proclaimed that God’s care knows no bounds.

We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness:
all are invited now to share God’s table, and be nourished by the Bread of Life.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us thank God.

It is good to thank God.

We thank you, God, that you have provided for all the worlds
that ever were or will be by giving yourself to them in love.

If we go to the heights of the mountains, or if we make the grave our bed, you are with us.

If we go to the depths of the sea, your right hand holds us fast.

We thank you for Jesus, your Word, who lived among us, uncovering your presence.

We thank you that you stamped his death with victory and that life, not death, was the final word.

We ask now that you bless us, as we share this bread and cup, that we might be nourished by
that same unbounded love and so be encouraged to be your servants in the world.

At this table, most gracious God, your love invites us to partake and to share.

We give thanks for the strength we receive through the body and blood of Jesus.

It feeds our souls and nourishes our faith, so that we can be your witnesses in a broken world.

It is your gift to us, and we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving and praise.

You, O Lord, are the sovereign God of justice,
so help us to be your source of light in a world that seems dark.

Just as your Son gave of his life freely for us,

may we also give of ourselves freely to those around us.

**Let your bread of life and cup of everlasting mercy move and flow through us,
that our faith and deeds may be an honest witness to you.**

Almighty God, we offer you this bread and this cup,
and we give thanks for the life and example of Jesus Christ.

**Because he died, we live. Because he lives, we experience your loving Spirit.
Send that spirit upon us and upon this bread and this cup, that we may be made one
with you and with each other, bound together in your covenant of love and life.**

As this grain was scattered in the fields and has come together in one bread,
so we, with different hopes and needs, come together as one, for we share one bread.

Take. The Bread of Life.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written on our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

Take. Drink. The Cup of the New Covenant.

Let us now eat of the bread and drink of the cup as one body.

Thanks be to God.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All powerful and living God,
help us to be grateful always for your amazing love shown through Jesus Christ.
As you walk with us in our journey of life, let your Spirit work within us,
that we may live as true witnesses to your mighty works of love.**

* CLOSING HYMN # 164 - "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

In a world of much darkness, let us follow the light.
In a world of spiritual confusion, let us point to the light.
In a world of chaos, let us be a light.

POSTLUDE – "Arise, Your Light Is Come" – *M. Burkhardt*

"Down Galilee's Slow Roadways"

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