

# TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 14, 2018

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***

Humans have always been seekers and searchers. Since the beginning, we have tried to come to terms with the unknown, to understand it. We have struggled to comprehend the mysteries, to find comfortable relationships with that which is beyond ourselves. And this is true from the discovery of flint to the exploration of the planets. But we are not merely biological things and our search has not been limited to the material world. We are spiritual persons, and in spiritual matters also we have always been seekers and searchers – Moses going into the mountain, Isaiah going into the temple, John going into the wilderness, Paul going into Arabia, and anyone going into a sanctuary of worship. Moreover, we understand that God too is a seeker and searcher – God has walked down the path to meet us, reaching for us. And we know that in Christ our God comes very close. Here today, we join the age long caravan of seekers.

PRELUDE – “Immortal, Invisible” – *Peterson*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

God is calling. Do you not hear?

You are being called by name, for a purpose.

**God, You have searched us and know us.**

**You discern our thoughts from far away.**

Do not confuse the noise of the world for God's call.

Do not confuse the values of this world for God's values.

**You know, O God, when we sit and when we stand.**

**You know when we lie down and where we go.**

Your words and your deeds are known to God.  
You were known to God before you were born.  
**Your knowledge of us is more than we can understand.**  
**Your thoughts embrace us amid all you have created.**

\* PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory.**  
**We are gathered here as your people,**  
**as citizens of your domain,**  
**as those who have experienced your power,**  
**and as those who will one day share your glory,**  
**honoring you for all that you are and all that you have done.**

\*GATHERING HYMN # 18 – “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

TIME OF CONFESSION

We can hide nothing from God, who knows our every thought.  
God is aware of sins we have not recognized.  
Whenever we have broken a solemn trust,  
whenever we have acted on selfish impulse,  
whenever we have trampled the feelings of others or ignored their need,  
God has noticed.

We cannot be right with God unless we examine ourselves and repent.

**O God, our lives are an open book to you.**

**Help us to recognize in ourselves what you have seen there.**

**Remove the distortions that keep us from acknowledging our sin.**

**Awaken in us a sorrow over the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected.**

**Create in us an earnest desire to change.**

**O God, we are in touch with the pain we have caused and the pain within us.**

**Because of your love and care, we can face and overcome the sins we here confess.**

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

God has heard your cries and felt your pain.

Your struggles to know yourself are prompted by God's love.

God leads the community of faith beyond what is lawful to what is holy.

**We are not our own; we are members of Christ.**

**We are one in the Spirit.**

By God's grace we are turning from self-serving ways to selfless ministries.

**Above all else, we were bought with a price.**

**Let us seek to honor and glorify God.**

**Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.**

\* RESPONSE # 448 - "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

\* 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 TIME

**ANTHEM**

"Here I Am, Lord"

*By Daniel L. Schutte.*

*Arranged by Michael Pope and John Weissrock*

**John McKay, Soloist**

THE WORD OF GOD

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

HYMN # 172 – **"Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"**

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

\* THE PRAYER FOR THE MORNING AND OUR LORD'S 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 # 769 - **"Hear Our Prayer"**

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;**

**Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

God's gifts to the world do not appear from nowhere.

God channels those gifts through people, people like you and me.

Let us now become channels of God's gifts through our morning tithes and offerings

*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 – “Lift Up Your Heads” - *Bliss*

\* 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.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We consider it an honor, Lord, to be channels of your gifts to the world.**

**Help us daily to be worthy of this divine privilege.**

\*CLOSING HYMN # 534 – “O God of Strength”

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

\* POSTLUDE – “High in the Heavens, Eternal God” - *Ritter*