

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 21, 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*

Jesus called the first disciples to a new life, to look at their daily journey in a new and different way, to live free of fear and in the embrace of God. To live free of fear is to live in trust. A child, raised in the security of a loving and supportive family, is able to take risks and even make mistakes, simply because that child trusts his/her parents to love and to accept unconditionally. In the same way, as children of God, we are called upon to trust God, no matter where we find ourselves in this journey through life. In trust, we will discover that we are capable of taking risks of faith, following the way that our Savior has shown us, in the knowledge that when we make mistakes we are not rejected but embraced, not cast aside but welcomed, not punished but forgiven.

PRELUDE – “This Little Light of Mine” – *M. Hassell*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

For God alone our souls wait in silence.

Our hope is from God, our fortress.

**God is our rock and our salvation.**

**God is our refuge and our deliverance.**

Trust in God at all times, in all places.

Pour out your hearts to the One who hears.

**All people are valuable in God's sight.**

**No one is more important than another.**

Worship God, who is ready to speak to us.

Open your lives to God's steadfast love.

**All power in the universe belongs to God.**

**Yet God depends on our faithful service.**

**\* PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**We await your message, God of all places and times.**

**Sometimes we do not like what we hear, but we know we need to listen.**

**Your message is inclusive and fair,**

**while we like to make distinctions that favor us and our friends.**

**You call us out of our comfort zones to do new things and try better ways.**

**You direct us to reach out to people with whom we seem to have little in common.**

**Speak your truth to us in this time,**

**so we can carry it to the places where you want us to go,**

**to the people you are eager to reach.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

**8:15a - # 86 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"**

**10:30a - # 85 "I Woke Up This Morning"**

**TIME OF CONFESSION**

**God's word sometimes comes as a warning.**

**How often we have pushed aside the word we find unpleasant.**

**Even if we grudgingly acknowledge its truth, we like to postpone any action to change.**

**God comes to us today, saying that our days are fewer than we think.**

**The time for us to repent is now.**

**Sovereign God, we reluctantly confess that we have installed our own gods in our lives.**

**They take our time. They use our resources. They demand care and devotion.**

**We do not like to hear that our way of life is unhealthy for us.**

**Yet we sometimes realize that what seems innocent is really avoiding our commitment to you.**

**We hear your voice calling us even while we pursue our own pleasures and self-interests.**

**O God, open our hearts and give us strength to change.**

**Help us to return to you.**

**Give us a new sense of commitment.**

**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

Remember God's pardon.

Remember God's promises.

Remember God's purpose for your life.

Our lives, can count for something good.

Forgiven and forgiving people can make a difference.

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

\* RESPONSE # 553 "There is a Balm in Gilead"

\* 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

ANTHEM

"Home In-a Dat Rock"

*Arr. by Marvin Curtis*

**Senior Choir**

THE WORD OF GOD

Jonah 3:1-5, 10    Psalm 62:5-12    1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

**HYMN # 173 "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"**

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 # 283 "Spirit of the Living God"

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

"Go therefore," said Jesus, "make disciples of all the nations;  
baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you."

Taking seriously Jesus' command, we respond with our tithes and offerings in this day.

*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 – "There Is a Balm in Gilead" – *M. Larkin*

\* 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**

**Accept these tithes and offerings as evidence  
that your Spirit is at work in our lives,  
motivating us to seek the welfare of others  
and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #**

**8:15a - # 525 "This Little Light of Mine"**

**10:30a - # 524 "This Little Light of Mine"**

**\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

In your standing, may you be resolute.

In your sitting, may you find peace.

In your running, may you know the exhilaration of a race well run.

\* POSTLUDE – "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" – *M. Sedio*