

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
February 18, 2018
First Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion
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 the coming weeks of Lent, we will journey to the cross of Jesus. We will follow the way that our Savior traveled, remembering the journey made not for His own sake, but for ours. We reflect on this supreme act of God's love. Through the cross of Christ we are freed from the power of evil over our lives -- free to become what God intends us to be in reaching our fullest human potential. As children of God, we reflect on the meaning of that freedom and the impact of the cross on our lives.

PRELUDE – “Communion” – *L. Vierne*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Some of us may feel uncomfortable about being here this morning.
Some of us may feel hypocritical because of something we have done.
Some of us may feel unworthy.
But God is a God of welcoming grace who accepts us just as we are.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Hear us, O God, when we speak to you.
We are frail creatures of dust.
Our lives and fortunes are in your hands.
It is only by your breath of life that we are alive,
and it is only by your grace that we are received.

***GATHERING HYMN # 391 – “In the Midst of New Dimensions”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

The temptation is all around us –
in beguiling whispers, in blatant temptations, in fantasies of power, in avoidance of involvement.

All that contributes to our broken world and broken relationships
keeps us from the fulfillment God intends. We are not all we could be;
we are not yet what we will be when we confess our sins and experience God's grace.

**As we raise our prayer of confession,
we offer no explanations, no excuses, no comparisons to others.**

We ask, not for your understanding, but for your mercy.

We rest, not on your justice, but on your grace.

**We rely not on our promises for the future,
but on what Christ has done for us in the past.**

Now let us silently reflect on the personal struggles and fears that keep us from being fully free.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are forgiven and set free from our addictions, our pretensions, our idolatry.
We are released from self-centeredness, from playing to the crowds, from our preoccupation with things.

Here is good news: In steadfast love, God redeems us.

Live as those who have experienced God's glory and sensed God's healing in their lives.

* RESPONSE # 188 "Give Me a Clean Heart"

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I am not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ, who loves us.

**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 Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Thanks be to God.

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

The message that Jesus gave during his temptation in the wilderness
is also the lesson he gives to us today:

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”

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 – “ God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” – *E. L. Diemer*

*** 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.**

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**To you, Lord God, we offer these tithes and offerings
as a significant part of our total worship and service.**

CHILDREN’S TIME

ANTHEM

“Hope of the World”

Arr: by Lloyd Larson

Senior Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

HYMN # 326 – “Crashing Waters at Creation”

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

LITURGY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Gracious God, we praise you and give you thanks.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give thanks and praise for all that is good in the world.

For the love we call God,

the creator of heaven and earth... we give thanks.

For the person we call Jesus, and his message
of peace, justice, and inclusiveness... we give thanks.

For the renewing strength and freedom of the Spirit,
always on the breath of life... we give thanks.

**We give thanks for the love, peace, justice,
generosity, strength and freedom
that is God working in our midst.**

Let us remember tradition.

We remember, at the end of a journey, among friends, gathered around a table,

Jesus took bread, gave thanks for all the blessings in his life, and broke it.

We remember at the same table and gathered with the same friends,
Jesus poured a cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends, inviting them to drink.

Bread broken, cup full, Jesus set the table.

May the Spirit within us

be a source of healing and consolation.

May the Spirit within us

strengthen us when we feel weak,

warm us when we are cold-hearted,

bend us when we are stubborn,

move us when we are uncaring,

guide us in the way of love.

May the Spirit within us

shine in all we do.

Bountiful God, at the feast of sacrifice,

we ask you to bless us and this bread and wine with the presence of your Holy Spirit,
that in our eating and drinking we might share in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Through this meal, make us one with you.

Nourish us for faithfulness in the Church of the Redeemer

you have sent to reconcile us to you and to one another.

You may come, for all things are now ready.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***SACRAMENTAL BLESSING**

***THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**God of our salvation, you have restored us to life,
you have brought us back again into your love
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.
Continue to heal us as we go to live and work
in the power of your Spirit, to your praise and glory.**

***CLOSING HYMN # 556 – “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”**

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon,

where there is doubt, faith,

where there is despair, hope,

where there is darkness, light,

where there is sadness, joy.

O, divine Master,

grant that I may not so much to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*** POSTLUDE – “Crashing Waters at Creation” – *C. Callahan***