

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 4, 2018

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*

We are often times frightened by those things that are new to us, skeptical of that which is different. The unfamiliar is uncharted and unknown territory, to be viewed with suspicion and held at a distance. No matter how wonderful it might look, we are still reluctant to embrace and to accept that which might offer us hope and wholeness in our lives. So it is no wonder that the people of Israel looked upon Jesus with a great deal of suspicion, for the Good News which He proclaimed was strange and different from what they had heard from any other prophet or religious leader of their time. The lesson we learn from this is simply to be more open to that which may seem to us, at first, a bit frightening. If it leads to a deeper understanding of the love of God, if it builds harmony and understanding among God's people, if it leads to acceptance and tolerance, then indeed it may be part of God's attempt to build up heavenly values on earth. A healthy and secure faith is not afraid, for we anticipate that God will continually do new things to offer hope to all people.

PRELUDE – “By Whatever Name We Call You” – *P. Niedmann*

A TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Sometimes, Lord, we feel so crowded by the world around us:
so many responsibilities demanding our time;
so many voices vying for our attention;
so many ideologies competing for our allegiance.
It's good to come aside for awhile,
to rejuvenate, to refresh, to restore,
to rest in the knowledge of your grace.

* GATHERING HYMN # 1 – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

TIME OF CONFESSION

Come away from your pretensions to examine your relationship with God.
Break away from your illusions of independence to realize your responsibility in the Church.

Claim your unity in Christ with all God's children.

Then realize how much you need to confess brokenness and seek healing.

**Holy God, who calls us to be your loyal followers,
forgive us if we have served you only when it was convenient,
only among those with whom we were comfortable,
only in matters that were not controversial,
and only in situations that were entirely safe.**

**Help us to be instruments of your peace and purpose,
regardless of the cost, following the example of Jesus Christ.**

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

Every community of faith is known to God, whose understanding is unlimited.

The One who knows our hearts is eager to forgive the truly penitent
and to empower those who have grown weary.

Your strength is being renewed in these moments.

You will mount up with wings like eagles.

You will run and not be weary.

You will walk and not faint.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.

*RESPONSE HYMN # 472 – “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

***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.

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much.

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 – “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” – *W. Held*

*** 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 intend, Lord, for these tithes and offerings
to be a symbol of our overall faithfulness to you,
for they represent just a small part of our total commitment
of body, soul, mind, time, and talents.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

“Jesus Paid It All”

Words by Elvina M. Hall

Music by Richard Kingsmore and John T. Grape

THE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

HYMN # 560 – “By Whatever Name We Call You”

Stanza 1 – Choir alone

Stanza 2 – Choir and congregation

Stanza 2 & 3 – Everyone

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Friends in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

**Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west,
from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

This feast is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, God of majesty and glory for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your Being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people, Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this feast of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the Good News. Born of your servant, Mary, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the Church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy, singing:

795 – Seraphic Hymn

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of the heavenly host;
heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of your glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

We remember that on that night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my Body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ's death, O God, we proclaim.

Christ's resurrection we declare.

Christ's coming we await.

Glory be to you, O God.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, and on us.

Strengthen your universal Church that it may be your instrument at work in the world.

Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE POURING OF WINE

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

Grant us peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

*THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy feast. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's Body and Blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a sign of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN # 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

As you leave this house of worship and continue your journey, may you find shelter from life's storms, refreshment in life's meadows, contentment amid life's providences, challenge at life's opportunities, and the peace of God at all times and places.

POSTLUDE – "Immortal, Invisible" – *M. Burkhardt*