

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 18, 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*

Death is a constant reality of life; to be born is to face death. We might try to avoid that reality, and many people try, but in the process of denying death we are really denying life. How can we live each day to the fullest if we refuse to acknowledge that those days will, at some point, come to an end? How can we really choose what is important and what priorities should govern our lives? Death is a reality, but it is not the end; how we choose to live out the days we are given, determines how we will spend eternal life.

PRELUDE – “‘Are Ye Able?’” said the Master?” - *Bartlett*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are a busy people, but God has called us to rest awhile.

We are anxious people, but God has invited us to share in peace.

We are people who live in the world, but God has invited us to look upward.

We are imperfect people, but God has invited us to be forgiven.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**As Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you, O God,
we cry out to you today.**

You know our losses and our fears.

You understand our suffering and pain.

We wish to see Jesus, to know the healing touch felt by so many.

We want to hear a reassuring voice.

We long to see a new day when evil is overcome and wrong cannot prevail.

Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship.

Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true to your covenant with us.

***GATHERING HYMN # 190 – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

The doubts and inattention that mark our response to God summon us now to confess our sin.
The promises of God which we have ignored draw us back to consider the covenant God offers.

The obedience of Jesus can inspire in us a reverent submission to God's will.

Let us seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come.

Into your freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to you.

Out of my sickness into your health, out of my want and into your wealth.

Out of my sin and into yourself, Jesus, I come to you.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come.

Into the glorious gain of your cross, Jesus, I come to you.

Out of earth's sorrows into your balm, out of life's storms and into your calm.

Out of distress to jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to you.

And now let us confess in silence those fears that keep us from loving as Christ has loved us.

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 welcomed into God's redeeming presence.

We are children of our Creator who loves us.

We are brothers and sisters of Jesus,

who was obedient to God and faithful to the law of love, even in the face of the cross.

Through suffering, Christ became the source of eternal salvation for us,

realized when we embrace the covenant in truth and faithfulness.

The burden of our sin is lifted from us.

New life is ours to enjoy.

*** 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**

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God, let us say what we believe, using the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

CHILDREN'S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

**"The Dove Song"
Gregory Norbet, OSB
Don Walsh**

THE WORD OF GOD

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

HYMN # 223 – "What Wondrous Love Is This"

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 "Jesus, Remember Me" *(sing twice)*

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

We give today because we have experienced the grace of God through Jesus Christ,
who though he was rich, yet for our sake became poor,
so that we by his poverty might become rich.

*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 – "Why Me Lord" – *Kris Kristofferson*

* 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

**Gracious God, as we give these tithes and offerings
we recognize that our possessions belong not only to ourselves,
but to our brothers and sisters as well,
for you have called us to be instruments of your grace.**

***CLOSING HYMN # Above the Hills of Time” (Traditional Irish Melody)**

Above the hills of time the cross is gleaming, Fair as the sun when night has turned to day; And from it love’s pure light is richly streaming, To cleanse the heart and banish sin away. To this dear cross the eyes of men are turning, Today as in the ages lost to sight; And so for Thee, O Christ, men’s hearts are yearning, as ship-wrecked seaman yearn for morning light.

The cross, O Christ, Thy wondrous love revealing, Awakes our hearts as with the light of morn, And pardon o’er our sinful spirits stealing, Tells us that we, in Thee, have been reborn. Like echoes to sweet temple bells replying Our hearts, O Lord, makes answer to Thy love; And we will love Thee with a love undying, Till we are gathered to Thy home above.

***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
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 – “Italian Hymn” - Broughton**

“Jesus Remember Me”

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