

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Third Sunday in Lent
March 4, 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*

A long time ago, Moses went up to a mountain to meet God. It is not on a mountain that we meet this morning, but in this place dedicated to the worship of God. As Moses went up to meet God, so we have come to meet God, each of us in our own way, each of us meeting God in God's own way. To meet God we don't have to go to some distant mountain because God has come to us – on a mountain called Calvary. “The high and lofty One who inhabits eternity” has stepped down into time and moved in close. God has come by way of a cross – in the person of Jesus Christ – all the way to the very core of our being. God invites us to come, and so today we do come. May we truly meet God in the spoken word of truth; may we meet God in the deep stillness of prayer; may we meet God in the beauty of this place; may we meet God in the faces of both friends and strangers. And in leaving here, may we meet God in the faces of those in need and pain to whom, perhaps, we can give a cup of cold water. If we can meet God in this way, then we shall have truly worshiped here.

PRELUDE – “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” – R. Lau

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come here this morning to continue our Lenten journey,
making time to reflect on our lives in light of God's love.

**We come seeking stillness for our souls,
that we may more clearly know God's presence.**

We come to remember the special relationship with God that has been offered to us.

We come with hearts open to the giver of life.

We come to hear the promises of God and to remember the covenant between God and all creation.

We come trusting God will keep those promises, and we come living in that hope.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Almighty and Holy God,
this Sunday hour for worshiping you is not enough;
and so we give you every hour of every day of our lives,
as our living sacrifice offered continuously to you.**

**We gather in this building dedicated to you,
but the only temple we worship is the one raised by your Son, Jesus Christ.
We reach up to you with familiar forms, prayers and songs;
knowing they would all fall short if it were not for your grace reaching down.
Your house of prayer is not a place, or a time, or a set ritual.
It is your sheltering embrace that covers us continuously with your love.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

8:15a # 489 – “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

10:30a # 582 – “O God of Earth and Altar”

TIME OF CONFESSION

Our souls are revived by God’s perfect law.

We are confronted by that law each day.

At its center is the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

It is more desirable than all the gold in the world.

Let us confess those things in our lives that keep us from realizing that love.

We have come to your house, loving God, because this is your place, not ours.

We confess that we sometimes forget whose house this is.

We forget that all the world belongs to you as we scramble for all we can claim for ourselves.

Our actions deny your love, which is at the heart of your perfect law.

**Our minds have justified the bending and breaking of your law that calls
for justice for all people and brings hope to those who are struggling.**

We cry out for forgiveness and the opportunity for a fresh start.

Clear us of hidden faults and redeem us from those recognized and confessed.

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

When our prayers become more than pious words;
when, in awe before God, we truly seek forgiveness;
the Almighty becomes for us a guiding presence.
We are healed, strengthened, and set free from our slavery to sin.
In steadfast love, God claims us, saying:
“You are my people.”
Dare to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

* 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

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Arr. by Amy Lynne Engelsdorfer

Senior Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

HYMN # 193 – “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

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

As we give, let us be reminded that God sees not only the amount,
but also the motive and the spirit.

Therefore let us give both generously and happily.

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 – "Air" – *J. Battishill*

* 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

**As we give, we pray that these gifts may be acceptable in your eyes,
not only in the amount we give, but also in the spirit in which they are given.**

***CLOSING HYMN # 436 – “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

***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 – “Siciliana” – *W. Walond***

“Jesus Remember Me”

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