

# TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 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***

When Jesus arose from Joseph's tomb on that amazing Sunday morning long ago, what was the first thing He did? Think about it – He met His people, His followers, His friends. The suffering of the cross was past; from the cross, dying, He had said, "It is finished." He had done what He had come into the world to do – He had opened a way of salvation for all people. Now He was risen from the dead. From the grave, He might have gone straight on to the glory that was His, but instead He wanted to meet with His people. So He met them. On that very first morning in the garden near the tomb; later that day in a room in Jerusalem; then in Galilee; and since then in their assembled small groups all over the world. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them," He said. And He is. He is meeting us in this day as we gather to worship. Our time together is important to Jesus. It is something He wants, yearns for, chose to do on that first resurrection day, and still chooses to do. And He responds with joy when we choose to meet Him here as well. Having died, He might have gone on from the grave, but instead came back to us – to reassure us, to comfort us, to strengthen our faith, to challenge us to be witnesses, to let us know that life in Him is mightier than death.

PRELUDE - "Come Gentle Spring" - *Bliss*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come before the Lord with awe,  
because we worship a God of power and majesty.

We come before the Lord with humility,  
because we worship a God of holiness and purity.  
Yet we also come before the Lord with confidence,  
because we worship a God of love and mercy.

**\* PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**You know, O Holy One, that life crowds in on us.  
We have work to do, appointments to keep, deadlines to meet, responsibilities to fulfill.  
So it's easy to live life without treasuring your presence  
and even without acknowledging your existence.  
So we look forward to this time of worship, this time of praise,  
this time of meditation, this time of self-examination,  
this time of inspiration and new life,  
this time of reconnecting with you, our Creator and Savior.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 51 – “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”**

**TIME OF CONFESSION**

**The mob action that sent Jesus to the cross was fed by fears and anger we are reluctant to admit.  
Yet we, too, reject the Holy One, by our neglect if not by our deliberate intent.  
We are invited to repent and turn to God that our sins may be wiped away.  
We are disturbed and distressed, O God, by the evil that surrounds us.  
It is hard to view many people we see as your children:  
murderers, abusers, those who cheat others and profit at their expense.  
We feel like victims.  
Why should we confess our sins when there is so much evil beyond our influence?  
Yet we know we do not abide in your love.  
We sin by turning away from our brothers and sisters who are also beloved by you,  
however they may differ from us.  
We seek the forgiveness you promise and the wholeness to life you offer.**

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

**WE PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY**

**Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.  
Trust in God and rejoice;  
You are forgiven and free to serve God with your whole heart.  
Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.**

\* RESPONSE # 502 "Dear God, Embracing Humankind" (*verses 2 and 4*)

**In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of your word,  
Let us like them, by spirit stirred, rise up and followers be.**

**Drop your still dews of quietness, till all our striving cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess the beauty of your peace.**

\* 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

"In the Garden"

*By C. Austin Miles*

**John McKay**

THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

HYMN # 230 – "Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

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 # 423 "Great is Your Faithfulness" (verse 1)**

**Great is your faithfulness, God, O Creator, with you no shadows of turning we see.  
You do not change, your compassions they fail not; all of your goodness forever will be.  
Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided, Great is your faithfulness, God unto me.**

**THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

As we give, we do so in faith, believing in God's promises,  
anticipating God's provisions, and accepting God's peace.

*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 - "First Prayer at Dawn" – Paxton**

**\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE - "For the Life That You Have Given" (Tune of # 397)**

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,  
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own.  
Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;  
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**In our giving, we perform an exercise of trust,  
for we entrust these tithes and offerings into the care of others,  
and we trust that the Holy Spirit will empower them in their appointed use.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN # 303 – “Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”**

**\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

As children of God, live gratefully and responsibly,  
at peace with the family of God  
and looking to the day when we will see God face to face.

\* POSTLUDE – “Majestic Postlude” - *Williams*

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