

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 29, 2018

10:00am

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*

Today's passages from scripture inspire hope! Baptism is universal. We are reminded of this through the response of the Ethiopian eunuch who asks Peter, "*What is to prevent anyone from being baptized?*" The good news for us today is that the same message heard by 1st Century followers applies equally to 21st Century disciples; we are all invited to share in the fullness of life with God and each other! The story from Acts is meant to inspire hope in continuation of Christ's mission in the world, even in the face of persecution and difficulties. What is preventing us from proclaiming, "*God is at work, baptize me?*"

PRELUDE - "God, Our Author and Creator" – *M. Burkhardt*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus.

Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.

Let us worship the Almighty and sing praises.

Let us join in proclaiming good news to others.

Beloved, we are called to love as God loves us.

We are to love one another as sisters and brothers.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

We seek to let God's love be perfected in us.

Remember that you have been baptized.

God claims you and has high expectations of you.

Christ is the vine; we are the branches.

We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Open our senses to your direction, amazing God,
so we may be alert to opportunities you give us.**

**Fill us with good news to share with those
who seek meaning for their lives.**

There is much in life that we do not understand.

We seek to know your Word and to be led by it.

As we meet you here, our hearts are lifted in praise.

**May this time of worship inspire us
to continue Christ's work in the world.**

Amen

***GATHERING HYM # 4 – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

There are numerous times in life when we feel connected to the true vine,
but how often do we live our lives in fruitful discipleship?

Let us turn to God and confess our disconnectedness.

God of Love, we confess that at times we do not know You.

**We turn away our neighbors in need and we curse strangers
instead of getting to know them.**

We do not see Your love in the world,

and we do not love as You loved us.

Forgive us for not loving others as You first loved us.

**Save us from our selfish ways. In the name of Christ,
who gave himself up in the greatest act of love, we pray.**

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

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's steadfast love endures forever.

God is love, and when we love one another, we love God.

Go into the world knowing God's love and forgiveness,

and extend the same love and forgiveness to others.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.

*** RESPONSE # 463 – “I Look to You in Every Need”**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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

We are not alone; we live in God’s world.

We believe in God: Who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Amen

CHILDREN’S TIME

ANTHEM

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Words and Music by Graham Kendrick

Arr. by Mark Hayes

Senior Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

HYMN # 270 – “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

Frederick Young

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 # 775 – “And God Will Raise You Up”

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

As we give, we are aware that there are many causes that vie for our attention,
some good and others not so good.
But more than any other cause,
the gospel of Jesus Christ offers
hope, reconciliation, and life.
So let us give generously, investing in eternity.

*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 - “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song” – M. Sedio

*** 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

**We consider it a privilege not only to receive, but also to share and to give.
Accept these tithes and offerings as a token of our love for you and for others.
Amen**

***CLOSING HYMN # 530 – “God, Our Author and Creator”**

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

God, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the goodness of your Spirit guide us,
may the gifts of your Spirit prepare us,
as we go out into the world, through Jesus Christ,
your Son, our brother.

Amen

CHORAL “Amen”

By Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

Senior Choir

*** POSTLUDE – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” – H. Hopson**

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