

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 8, 2018**  
**8:15a**

*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 continue our celebration of the Good News of the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ from the dead. We share this victory, not by our worthiness or goodness, but solely because of the great love of our God. May each new day be lived with gratitude and thanksgiving, remembering that we have been freed from the power of evil over our lives. We live free of fear, in the confidence that a loving and merciful God watches over us and protects us for eternity. Nothing can separate us from the love of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day that God has made; it belongs to God.

This is the first day of the week, an opportunity to start anew.

This is the day of rest, set aside for renewal and refreshment from and for the journey.

This is Sunday and we will celebrate the resurrection.

**\* PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Holy God, we come today with thanksgiving on our lips and in our hearts,  
for we know that Christ's life has become our life;  
that his resurrection has become our resurrection;  
that his hope has become our hope;  
that his victory has become our victory;  
that his triumph has become our triumph,  
that his joy has become our joy.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 238 – “Now the Green Blade Rises”**

**TIME OF CONFESSION**

Life with eternity in it is God’s present gift to us.

We have heard it, but we are slow to believe.

We have received it, but we are slow to trust.

It is ours to enjoy, but we have not lived it.

Let us discuss the matter with our Creator.

**Look upon us with compassion, O Lord;  
for we have fallen short of your will for us.**

**Have mercy on us;**

**in tenderness wipe away our faults.**

**We make no excuses,  
and we rely only on your grace.**

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**

Grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

but it has now been revealed through

the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,

who abolished death and brought life and immortality

to light through the gospel.

**Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.**

**\* RESPONSE # 236 “Halleluja” (sing twice)**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, Halleluja.**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halleluja, hallelujah.**

**\* 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**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Acts 4:32-35    Psalm 133    1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

**HYMN # 247 – "My Shepherd Is the Living God"**

**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 # 769 - "Hear our Prayer"**  
**Hear our prayer, O God; hear our prayer, O God;**  
**Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

**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**

**\* 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 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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN # 433 – "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"**

**\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

As we leave this house of worship and reenter the world of everyday living,  
go forth with minds open to new truth,  
with eyes open to new opportunities,  
and with hands open to both receive and to share.

**\* POSTLUDE**