

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

We offer a warm welcome to the young men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity of Gettysburg College and our other friends this morning. Together we are responding to an unmet need in the community through sponsoring Undie Sunday. We appreciate that we can work to make a difference in Gettysburg and celebrate together the common concern for the needs of others. Included in the social service agencies that will benefit are South Central Community Action Program, Survivors, The Agape House, Adams Rescue Mission, and Tender Care Pregnancy Center, as well as the elementary schools of Gettysburg and Fairfield School Districts. Thank you for your generosity.

PRELUDE – “Be Thou My Vision”

Irish Melody

Arr: Resort Music

Trinity Trio

Georgia Hollabaugh – Flute

Lucy Greene – Cello

Audrey Blackstone - Piano

ANTHEM

“On Eagle’s Wings”

By Michael Joncas

Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Senior Choir

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

A new day:

Christ lives!

In our hearts and in our world:

Christ lives!

In the face of an unexpected neighbor:

Christ lives!

As we share God's abundance:

Christ lives!

As we care for God's creation:

Christ lives!

As we share the good news, let our joy be complete:

Christ lives!

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Holy God, who made the world and called it good,
who calls humanity into community with you and with each other,
who breathes within our world and calls us to peace and justice,
make your presence known to us here gathered
that we may recognize you in the wound of our sisters and brothers,
and make real for them your hope of abundant life,
through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.**

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

TIME OF CONFESSION

In the midst of doubt, we are called to trust.

But trust is sometimes difficult

Yet God promises to be near us even in the midst of our doubts.

We can even admit our lack of trust and know we are heard.

With confidence then, let us come with humility to Almighty God.

Our news reports are filled with stories of crises and tragedy.

Our own lives are filled with uncertainty and worry.

Incidents in our lives and in the lives of others sometimes cause us to doubt.

**We confess that in the midst of trouble,
we have sometimes been tempted to give up and follow another path.**

Be near to us when we have wandered and restore us

**to the confidence of a life lived in your presence,
and share with us the joy of the good news of your love for us.**

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

There is much in the world that leads to confusion and anxiety, distress and aloneness,
yet in the midst of all that is discouraging,
we are assured of the continuing presence of a God whose love will not abandon us.
As you are open to God's Spirit, you will find a hope that will sustain and strengthen you.
We need not live in fear, for God is with us.
Receive freedom from the burden of your doubts,
and live in the freedom that is yours through God's presence with you.
Thank 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 express our intentions to live as God's people:
We wish to place others before ourselves.
We wish to place ethics before expediency.
We wish to rate principle as being more important than pleasure.
We wish to seek generosity rather than greed.
We wish to value love as higher than lust.
We wish to place character before charisma.
We wish to place Christ before all.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Easter teaches us that laughter and love are at the heart of God's work.
Joyfully we are able to give knowing that our tithes and offerings
will help others to see the blessed miracle of God's creative joy.

*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 – “Simple Gifts”

Shaker Hymn

Arr: Resort Music

Trinity Trio

Georgia Hollabaugh – Flute

Lucy Greene – Cello

Audrey Blackstone - Piano

*** DOXOLOGY # 782**

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

O God of life, take these tithes and offerings and bless them,

multiply them, put them to work in your world

wherever there is need of peace, of justice, of hope.

Put them to work in your world to care for your earth, your water, your air.

We offer them to you as a witness to your love that makes our joy complete!

THE WORD OF GOD

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

John 20:19-31

Gettysburg Ensemble **Drop the Octave**

SERMON

Some words from the Community Representative of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity,
Daniel Ebert

***A PRAYER OF HOPE**

Holy One, it is in the simple things that the truth of the resurrection comes alive. The meaning of the resurrection finds its fulfillment by the way we, who have experienced the good news, share our joy and our faith with the world around us. We are a people who live in abounding hope. A hope that finds its roots in an inner orientation of our hearts and spirits. A hope that transcends all the obstacles and challenges that are part of life. A hope that reaches out by word and deed to make a difference in the lives of others. Help us, O gracious One, to always offer a supportive word to those who are struggling, to extend an open hand to those who are different, an understanding mind to those whom we find difficult, an affirming gesture to those who are considered “not quite good enough”. May our actions speak even more loudly than our words – a meal to those who are hungry, clean water to those who are thirsty, a dry place to sleep for those who are homeless, and, yes, even underwear and socks to those who have basic needs. May our witness to the resurrection be a powerful statement of your love for each person and may the resurrection indeed come alive through your people in the world. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

***CLOSING HYMN # 433 - “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”**

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

We go out from this place trusting that God walks with us.
We go out from this place knowing that we walk in the light.
We go out from this place shining with the good news that Christ is risen:
we are new people who love our neighbors,
share God’s abundance,
and care for God’s creation.
Christ is risen indeed.

Choral “Amen”
By Jacob Handl (1550-1591)
Senior Choir

*** POSTLUDE – “Trumpet Tune”**