

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 6, 2018

Holy Communion
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*

We may not consider it a miracle, but the evidence of new life is all around us. Everywhere we see God's power at work – the lengthening of the days, the warming air, the growing lawns. God's creative power – the blossoming of the trees and flowers, young birds maturing, and yes, even the buzzing of insects. Our spirits are lifted by new hope, new colors, new aspirations. In all of this we see a symbol of the new life we possess in Christ. The old has passed away; the new has come. Death has given way to life. The grave no longer claims victory. Jesus lives, and so do we! We live as new people, as people free of fear and free of the prejudices that bind us to the old ways of thinking. We are free to love and to accept, to embrace and to care; free to receive those who are the outcasts and the rejected in our society. Perfect love casts out all fear – and, after all, aren't our prejudices just our fears?

PRELUDE - "I Love to Tell the Story" – C. Callahan

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God calls us to come just as we are:

without pretense,

without boasting,

without excuses,

yet without groveling and without fear.

For our God is loving and accepting,

forgiving us of our past,

walking with us in the present,

and preparing us for the future.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**We know, Lord, it's going to be a good day.
The sun came up, we are living and breathing,
all around us we see evidences of your creative power,
and we feel your love and the love of others in this place.
Receive our grateful worship and accept our praise
in the name of Jesus our risen Lord.**

***GATHERING HYM # 36 – “To God Compose a Song of Joy”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

**God judges the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.
God knows all that we have done and all that we avoid.
God is aware of our obedience to the way of love and our rebellion against it.
We are invited to confess all that God already knows
so healing and freedom can be ours in Christ Jesus.
We acknowledge that your love has created us and sustained us,
yet we have not always loved you in return or reflected that love to others.
We have harbored grievances,
we have answered in anger,
we have been rude and curt,
we have been pleased by the misfortune of those we dislike.
Pardon us, we pray, for being less than loving,
and help us to follow the example of the One who loved us and gave himself for us.**

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

**Even now, God is giving us victory over the limitations we impose on ourselves.
When we trust God's love, we can emerge from the shell of self-protection
to celebrate the joy of friendship in Christ.
We can dare to show love that is not dependent on others' responses.
We can serve without the need for recognition.
Your sins are forgiven by the grace of God.
Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.**

*** RESPONSE # 13 – “Oh My Soul, Bless Your Creator”**

*** 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.

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

In worship we receive with gratitude the self-giving love of God.

Let us pass on that love to others through our persons and our tithes and offerings.

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 - "Eternal Christ, Who, Kneeling" - T. Keesecker

*** "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

**Help us to mirror the glory of your sacrificial love,
both in our daily lives and in the tithes and offerings
we present in this place.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM

"O Lord, Bread of Life"

By Gabriel Faure

Words and Choral Setting by Patrick M. Liebergen

Senior Choir

Georgia Hollabaugh, Flute

THE WORD OF GOD
Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

HYMN # 390 – “Eternal Christ, Who, Kneeling”

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Holy One, our God.

Let us give thanks.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Loving and Compassionate God,

we give you praise for the care and grace which you show toward all that you have made.
We thank you for acting to deliver us from the power of sin and death through Jesus Christ,
our Savior. With all creation, and with all the company of the redeemed,
we magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you, singing:

795 – Seraphic Hymn

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of the heavenly host;
heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of your glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Eternal God, we trust in you.

We thank you for raising Jesus from the dead, the first fruit of all who have died.

His ascension into heaven to sit at your right hand we confess,

and His coming again in triumph we await.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We remember, O Holy and Mighty God, how Jesus on the night He was betrayed,
took bread and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying,

"Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you".

We remember too how in the same manner He took the cup and gave it to His disciples saying,

"This cup is my blood, the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you.

As often as you do it, do so in remembrance of me.

**Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain, to receive all power and wealth,
wisdom and might, honor and glory and praise.**

Worthy indeed is your Son Jesus Christ, who died so that we might live
and who rose from the dead so that we might be one with Him in your sight.

We pray that our lives may always proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Loving God, send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that the bread we break may be for us communion in the body of Christ,
and the cup of blessing which we bless may be for us communion in the blood of Christ;
that being built up in love we may be strengthened in the unity of faith
and come to the fullness of the stature of Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF BREAD AND POURING OF WINE

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Take them remembering Christ died and was raised for you.

Give Christ thanks and praise.

**In humble and joyous thanksgiving we will receive the
body and blood of our Savior.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

***THE SACRAMENTAL BLESSING**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We give you thanks, O merciful God, for this bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior,
Jesus Christ. May it strengthen us always to be your willing and obedient servants
until that time when life's journey ends and we share in the eternal feast
of your heavenly realm. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN # 522 – “I Love to Tell the Story”**

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

Having been loved, go out and love.

Having been pardoned, go out and pardon.

Having been helped, go out and help.

Having been transformed, go out and transform.

*** POSTLUDE – “Hornpipe” – C. Callahan**