

Welcome to

Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

450 West Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554

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(717) 285-5593

May 7, 2017: Fourth Sunday of Easter



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

PRELUDE/GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 23)*

One: Let us pray

**All: Jesus, you are our shepherd.
We shall never want.**

**You make us lie down in green pastures;
you lead us beside the still waters.
You restore our souls.**

**You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
Even though we may walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.**

**Jesus has prepared a table for us
in the presence of our foes;
Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation;
our cup runs over!**

**Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us
all the days of our lives,
And we will dwell in the house
of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION*

One: Incarnate God, You are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ. Holy One, You are the one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit. Sovereign of Earth and Heaven, You are the one who calls us to recognize you today and every day as the eternal source of love and grace. Gather our hearts and minds this day. Kindle our God-consciousness. Let us worship you in awe and wonder!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

[Many people become concerned about the spread of germs that cause cold and flu symptoms; we invite you to participate in the tradition of passing the peace in ways that you are comfortable with while honoring the preferences of others—whether that means shaking hands or simply offering a verbal “peace to you”]

SPECIAL MUSIC - “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” (Arr. Helvey)

[at this time children who are interested in attending Sunday School may go to the classroom downstairs]

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness because our consciousness of you is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

All: Raise our consciousness of you, God.

One: We forget that we are a reflection of your image. We act as though you are a Sunday-only event.

All: Increase our mindfulness of you, God.

One: Help us to a greater common awareness of your deep mystery and infinite presence.

All: Rouse our awareness of you, God.

One: Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception. Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.

All: Awaken us from faint-heartedness, God.

One: Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways. Save us from cheap grace with your amazing grace.

All Forgive us, God. We ask in Jesus’ hope-filled name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVING PARDON

One: Holy, Forgiving God, we are in your care. You keep us awake and aware. Offering us God-consciousness every day of our lives. Bless you and praise you for forgiving us when we are barely mindful enough to ask. Help us to enter into your loving presence as we hear your voice of pardon. Through Christ’s grace we are forgiven. **Amen.**

RESPONSE OF PRAISE (remain seated) - **“Majesty” (SB 42)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Joanne Duke

One: Comforter and guide, Savoir and provider, you know us each by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, where we celebrate with you forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Joanne Duke

New Testament reading: **1 Peter 2:19-25**

Gospel lesson: **Luke 23: 33-43**

One: God is still speaking

All: Thanks be to God

REFLECTION ON THE SCRIPTURE

Pastor Don

CALL TO OFFERING - Joanne Duke

One: Good Shepherd of the Sheep, you have opened the door to new life for us through your dedication and your sacrifice. May we reflect your love for us by opening the doors of our hearts to you and your church in the act of giving our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY - **“Give Thanks”**

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (2x)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us" (x2)

Give thanks.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: Risen Christ, bless our offerings of time, and talent, and resources, that they may give voice to your work for justice and peace in this world.
May we grow more mindful of you through our giving and our living.
Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; complete Lord's prayer is printed on page 6 of this bulletin)

PRAYER RESPONSE - Lord, Listen to Your Children

**Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Lord, send Your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace!**

Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION *(during today's service of Communion we will read responsively from the liturgy found in your black New Century Hymnal, beginning on p. 16; we will follow liturgy A throughout)*

***CLOSING HYMN - NCH #224 "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** *(based on readings from 1 Peter and John 10)*

One: You are called for a purpose:
for the sake of knowing and drawing close toward God
a person bears up under sorrows.

All: We are not here by chance.

One: You are choice and precious in the sight of God,
and as living stones, your lives are being built up
into a spiritual sanctuary where the justice and mercy and peace
of the Risen Christ may dwell.

All: We are not here by chance.

One: Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me;
and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish;
and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

**All: Jesus, we are the sheep of your pasture.
You have chosen us. We have chosen you.
We are not here by chance. Amen**

*SUNG BENEDICTION (inside back cover of New Century Hymnal)

*GO TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND ALL PEOPLE

*POSTLUDE

**indicates an invitation to stand either in body or in spirit*

If you use social media we invite and encourage you to check in online as you attend today's service.

*Portions of this week's service were excerpted and adapted from **God-Consciousness: Service Prayers for Easter 4** by the Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine, and from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress*

The Lord's Prayer

*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 forever.
Amen.*

WELCOME TO TRINITY

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here - to explore your faith, to meet new people, and to strengthen your personal relationship with God. If you are a guest here today, please sign our guest book. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please fill out the Welcome Card in the pews and put it in the offering plate.

Sunday Bulletins - Trinity offers a Children's Bulletin and a Large Print Bulletin along with the Regular Sunday Bulletin. We also have adjustable audio devices for better hearing. Each can be found in the narthex.

Mark Your Calendar—Mother's Day Mother Daughter Banquet, Saturday, May 13, 2017, 6:00 pm. All women are invited. You are either a daughter or someone's daughter. It's an evening of food, fellowship and entertainment. Prices are as follows: Adults - \$8.00, Children age 4 to 12 - \$4.00, and children age 3 and under are free. Please see the sign up sheet on the Narthex table to place your name on the reservation list.

Reminder: Volunteers are greatly appreciated and needed! Please be sure to visit the Narthex table and sign up to volunteer if you are available! There are some quickly approaching months where we are in need of volunteers!



DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS - On June 9-10, 2017, Penn Central Conference UCC (PCC) will hold its 55th annual meeting on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA.

As a PCC congregation, we are encouraged to send two delegates from the congregation to vote at the plenary session on Saturday. TRUCC will cover your registration fees if you are interested in attending as a delegate. If you are interested in representing our congregation at the annual meeting, please contact Pastor Don by Friday, May 12.

In addition, our denomination's General Synod (national conference) will take place in Baltimore this year, from June 30th – July 4th in Baltimore, MD. Our local Lancaster Association Mission and Ministry Team has chartered a bus for local congregants to travel from Lancaster to Baltimore to attend the General Synod Worship Service on Sunday, July 2nd. The bus will leave the Church of the Apostles (1850 Marietta Ave., Lancaster) at 12:30pm for the 2:30pm worship at the Baltimore Convention Center. The bus is wheelchair accessible, and for \$30 you will receive a bag lunch as well as the round trip to and from Baltimore (\$21 w/o lunch option). The bus will stop for dinner on the return trip and financial assistance is available for anyone unable to afford the cost of the bus ticket. Registration forms are posted on the community bulletin board in the Welcome Area.

Even if you can't, or are not interested in travelling to Baltimore for General Synod, you will still have an opportunity to experience this unique event in the life of our denomination if you come to Church of the Apostles on Friday, June 30th at 7:15 pm as the Mission and Ministry Team Livestreams the opening worship service from Baltimore. This event will be preceded by a pot luck dinner at 5:30pm.

Today is: Sunday, May 7th

10:00 am Trinity Café
10:30 am Worship
1:00 pm UCC 101
3:30 pm LIG

Monday, May 8th

8:00 pm AA

Tuesday, May 9th

8:30 am Lancaster Ministerium
6:30 pm Worship Team Meeting
6:30 pm Lions Club
8:00 pm AA

Wednesday, May 10th

6:30 pm Bell Choir
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 11th

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

Friday, May 12th

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

Saturday, May 13th

Mother Daughter Banquet

Sunday, May 14th

Kenya Offering
10:00 am Trinity Café
10:30 am Worship

Sunday mornings couldn't happen without the many disciples here at TRUCC. Volunteers are appreciated and needed. If you're interested in serving please see the volunteer sign-up sheets in the narthex.

May 7th Volunteers

Trinity Café: Flora Mitchell & Bonnie Crone

Greeters: Diane and Bridgette

Head Usher: Esther Markey

Lay Reader: Joanne Duke

Communion: Esther Markey, Mary Ibach, Dee Koller

Children's Christian Education: Kathy Jones, Sharon Knerr & Wendy McKelvey

Counters: Mark Cote & Charles Miller

Altar Flowers: Nancy Henry
"Glory to God!"

Attendance
May 1, 201665
April 30, 2017...No Count Taken

THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING





Strengthen the Church: Multiple Choice

What is church?

- a) Worship on Sunday mornings
- b) Protests and rallies in support of the least of these
- c) Helping to feed the hungry and support the addicted
- d) All of the above!

Where is church?

- a) In the sanctuary and church building
- b) In breweries and coffee shops
- c) Around a dinner table
- d) All of the above!

Why church?

- a) To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves
- b) To be united in Spirit and inspired by God's grace to welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all
- c) To vision a just world for all, united in Christ's love
- d) All of the above!

Where does Strengthen the Church money go?

- a) To seed brand new churches that bring hope to people on the margins who wouldn't set foot in church otherwise
- b) To help established churches begin projects working with refugees and immigrants
- c) To fund creative ideas experimenting with new way Christian millennials are gathering
- d) All of the above . . . and so much more!

If you answered "d) all of the above!," then you're not only correct, but you're thinking outside of the buildings and boxes that have defined the message of Christianity for the last several decades. You're thinking on the forefront of the United Church of Christ and the way in which we are Strengthening the Church not only for the church we have grown up knowing, but for the church God is calling us to be!

Will you join us through our Special Mission Offering to Strengthen the Church? How?

- a.) Time - I will pray alongside the offering
- b.) Talent - I will tell the stories of my own church's engaging a Just World For All (contact justworld@ucc.org)
- c.) Treasure - I will donate towards Strengthen the Church
- d.) All of the above! ;)

Worship Leadership

Preacher: Don Fenestre-Marek

Lay Reader: Joanne Duke

Ministry of Music

Music Director, Chancel Choir Shannon Edwards

Bell Choir Director: Daniel Molkenthin

Sound Technician

Mark Cote and Charlie Miller

Ministry of Service

Trinity Café: Flora Mitchell & Bonnie Crone

Head Usher: Kathy Brown

Greeters:

Counters: Mark Cote and Charles Miller

Children's Christian Education

Christine Macready, Jenny Hooper & Esther Markey

Floral Arrangement

Nancy Henry – “Glory to God!”

May Greeting Cards

Mary Ann Price

Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ exists to render loving service toward humanity with Jesus as our example. We preach love, teach compassion and social justice, and welcome all into the full life and ministry of the church.