



April 18th, 2021 **10:30 am**
Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
450 West Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554
www.mountvilletrinityucc.org
<https://www.facebook.com/MountvilleTRUCC>
(717) 285-5593

Reverend Patty Dodds, Pastor

Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music

COMMUNITY GATHERS IN SPIRIT BEFORE GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God stretches out the heavens and shapes the earth.

ALL: We come to give thanks!

One: God raises up the mountains and pours water into the seas.

ALL: We come to give thanks!

One: God calls forth plants from the soil and forms animals in infinite variety.

ALL: We come to give thanks!

One: God breathes upon us and fills us with life.

ALL: We lift our voices in praise!

One: God gives our lives meaning through laughter and tears.

ALL: We lift our voices in praise!

One: God touches our hearts through family and friends.

ALL: We lift our voices in praise!

One: God loves us and blesses us with everything good.

ALL: We come to worship our God!

One: God loves us and overwhelms us with never-ending generosity.

ALL: We come to worship our God!

One: God loves us and surrounds us with love in abundance!

ALL: We come to worship our God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, empower us with your spirit that we may always walk gently upon the Earth in right relationship with you, with all your beloved human children and with all of creation. Nurtured by your love and open to the wind of the Spirit, help us to honor all with reverence. We pray that we might take only what we need and always open to the needs of others, live with generosity. May we make choices that bring wellbeing; always be mindful of those who will come after; and recognize our proper place as part of your creation. Grant us the strength and courage, Lord, for such a transformation into your Kingdom. We pray as Jesus taught us...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

OPENING HYMN All Things Bright and Beautiful #31

**Refrain:) All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.
Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.**

**Refrain:) All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.
The purple headed-mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.**

**Refrain:) All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.
The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.**

**Refrain:) All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.**

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE GOSPEL READING: Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-35

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
“To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. The Lord created me at the
beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at
the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was
brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—

when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. "And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord;

One: God is Still Speaking.

ALL: Thanks Be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE

"Reflections for Earth Day"

Kathy Jones and Tom Robinson

THE BLESSING OF THE SOIL

*We will bring bags of soil to you to put in your garden
at home or even in a potted plant.*

Creator God, who lifted up the mountains and formed the dry land; whose hands shaped us out of the dust of the earth; who formed the soils and made this earth a place of beauty and abundance: We give you thanks for the gift of soil. Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and all your gifts that we might receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

ALL: God of all creation, you loved us into being, yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation. We confess that we exploit the gifts you place around us and dominate the richness of the natural order. Forgive our greedy grasping. We confess our part in the devastation of our planet home, mirrored in the violence of cities, and the brokenness of hearts. Forgive and restore us, O God. Nurturing God, remind us of other ways to live and of a place called home, where creation reflects your goodness and each thing lives in balance with all others. Come and find us, set us right again, and take us home. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

CLOSING HYMN For the Beauty of the Earth #28

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
(Refrain:) God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, such and moon, and stars of light,
(Refrain:) God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
(Refrain:) God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
(Refrain:) God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

SENDING

One: Certainly, God is raising up people even today to bring us through this time.

ALL: Life-giving God, we offer ourselves in service to you, supported by a great cloud of witnesses who urge us on.

One: We are connected to other people of faith and conscience around the world who are working for a peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

ALL: This global community supports us; we support each other.

One: We are related to the earth and all its creatures in a web that cannot be broken without injury to all.

ALL: The earth and our fellow creatures support us; we are their advocates.

One: Therefore, let us lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, resisting all powers that destroy, bringing healing and hope to the world.

ALL: O God our Creator, we offer our lives in service to you.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Go Now in Peace”

Worship Resources:

Christian Aid and Christian Ecology Link. Posted on Third Space blog. (adapted)
from the Mennonite Church Canada website
National Council of Churches

Announcements:

Bible Study Thursday at 7 pm by Zoom and Thursday at 1 pm in the narthex. We are studying the book of Acts which tells many stories of the early church, *Join us!*

Book Study: Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a time of Pandemic and Beyond by Matthew Fox. Next meeting will be, April 25th, at 1:30 by Zoom. During this meeting we will review Chapter 3. If you have any questions, or need assistance in getting the book, please contact Pastor Patty.

Mark your Calendars for our upcoming Chicken Barbeques! The dates are May 22nd, July 17th and September 18th.

At our May 22 Barbeque we will have an outdoor rummage sale from 8 am - noon. Help will be needed on Friday 9 - noon for set up and Saturday for set up, tear down and help at the sale. Please call George Himpsl or the church office to sign up.

Reminder on April 25th following the worship service there will be a congregational meeting. At this time we will receive the annual report.

Thank You for your continued support of our ministry. Checks may be mailed to the church: 450 West Main St Mountville, PA 17554, or click on the Donate button on our website.

Please contact Pastor Patty if you have any concerns or needs, or if you just need to talk. Phone: 570-506-0677, email: Pastor@MountvilletrinityUCC.org

Next Sunday, April 24th, 2021, Scripture: Acts 2: 14-18, 22-24, 29-47

Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen: "In the Last Days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit On those who serve me, men and

women both, and they'll prophesy." "Fellow Israelites, listen carefully to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man thoroughly accredited by God to you—the miracles and wonders and signs that God did through him are common knowledge—this Jesus, following the deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God, was betrayed by men who took the law into their own hands, and was handed over to you. And you pinned him to a cross and killed him. But God untied the death ropes and raised him up. Death was no match for him. 29-36 "Dear friends, let me be completely frank with you. Our ancestor David is dead and buried—his tomb is in plain sight today. But being also a prophet and knowing that God had solemnly sworn that a descendant of his would rule his kingdom, seeing far ahead, he talked of the resurrection of the Messiah—'no trip to Hades, no stench of death.' This Jesus, God raised up. And every one of us here is a witness to it. Then, raised to the heights at the right hand of God and receiving the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he poured out the Spirit he had just received. That is what you see and hear. For David himself did not ascend to heaven, but he did say, God said to my Master, "Sit at my right hand Until I make your enemies a stool for resting your feet." "All Israel, then, know this: There's no longer room for doubt—God made him Master and Messiah, this Jesus whom you killed on a cross." Cut to the quick, those who were there listening asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers! Brothers! So now what do we do?" Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites." He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, "Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!" That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.