



**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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 & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us we have come to worship and to praise.

**ALL: With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our minds, the warmth of our hearts, and the joy of our spirits.**

One: We love because God has first loved us, freeing us from the power of sin and death.

**ALL: With glad hearts let us join together in praise to God: Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, We come together in this Easter season, celebrating the power of your love, stronger than death, which raised our Lord Jesus to new life.

Remembering Peter's bold witness, let us proclaim in words and actions that your kingdom of peace and justice is a reality. Help us to continually re-turn to you; live in joy and harmony; commit ourselves to learning, to prayers and to meeting the needs of those around us. While we are separated physically, we give thanks that in your Holy Spirit, we are truly one. Amen

### 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 They'll Know We Are Christians**

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other; we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other; we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.  
(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father; from who all things come.  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only son.  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.  
(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

## **THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

### **THE READING: 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.

"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.

One: God is Still Speaking.

**ALL: Thanks Be to God**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**THE MESSAGE “The First Message to the Church” Reverend Patty Dodds**

## **THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SHARING GOD’S PEACE**

**DEDICATION PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES**

One: God calls us to love one another. In giving our time, talents and treasure we bless our neighbors who are close to us and those who we do not know. With gladness we dedicate the offerings of our life and labor to God

**ALL: All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ’s offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY**

## **CLOSING HYMN O Christ the Great Foundation #387 vs 1,2,4**

**O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand  
To preach your true salvation in every age and land:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,  
To keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.**

**Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,  
We bear Christ's own impression, the sign of second birth:  
One holy people gathered in love beyond our own,  
By grace we were invited, by grace we make you known.**

**This is the moment glorious when Christ who once was dead  
Shall lead the church victorious, their champion and their head.  
The Sovereign of creation a new dominion brings,  
The final consummation, the glory of all things.**

## **SENDING**

One: Christ walks with us in newness of life; go forth in confidence and joy!

**ALL: We are the hands and feet of Jesus, carrying God's love and forgiveness to others.**

One: We are the ony scriptures some will read. Jesus will be known by our deeds.

**ALL: In awe and obedience we accept our tasks, with humble sincerity and truth.**

One: Let everything that breathes praise God, who equips us for our ministry.

**ALL: We praise God, not with boasting or sham, but with honest delight in our mission, in Christ.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace"**

**Worship Resources: Chalice Worship © 1997 Chalice Press**

## **Announcements:**

**SERVING CHRIST'S CHURCH IN WIDER MINISTRIES**-Did you know that you can serve God beyond our congregation? There are positions on committees in the Lancaster Association UCC, in the Penn Central Conference UCC, and in the national setting. If you have abilities in finances, the Lancaster Association is in search of a Treasurer. If you are interested in developing social events with other churches, the Mission and Ministry Committee of the Association is looking for people to serve. If you are wondering about how the UCC makes a difference on a national level, consider being a delegate or an alternate delegate to the General Synod which takes place every other year. There is so much more, too, that takes place beyond our church! If you would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Patty.

**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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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 TODAY following the worship service** there will be a congregational meeting. At this time we will receive the annual report. Please come in on zoom for the meeting. You can do this by phone, without a computer, by dialing 301-715-8592. You will be asked to enter your meeting ID: 861 1114 4518 and Password: 62089.

**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](mailto:Pastor@MountvilletrinityUCC.org)

**Next Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Scripture: Acts 8:26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south<sup>[a]</sup> to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”<sup>[b]</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip<sup>[c]</sup> baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.