

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the

MERCIES OF GOD

to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD,
which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be
TRANSFORMED by the renewing of
your minds

so that you may discern what is
the will of God--

***what is Good and acceptable
and perfect***

Romans 12: 1-2

TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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August 15, 2021

Reverend Patty Dodds, Pastor
Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music
Mark Cote, Lay Reader

COMMUNITY GATHERS IN SPIRIT BEFORE GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,

ALL: and so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.

One: We gather here as people who live in the world and yet,

ALL: we gather as people who have been called to see the world from a different viewpoint.

One: God has called us together; God has called us to be part of a community.

ALL: God challenges us to consider questions of priority as we engage with the world.

One: In this time together,

ALL: may God open our hearts, minds and eyes,

One: allowing us to see deeper, helping us to live in the world while still offering a challenge to the ways of the world.

ALL: We praise God who with this worship and with our whole lives.

***OPENING HYMN Be Now my vision #451**

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;

Nothing surpasses the love you impart

You my best thought, by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;

Ever within me, my soul is assured;

Mother and Father, you are both to me.

Now and forever your child I will be.

**Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
You, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God my treasure, may we never part.**

**Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still. Be my vision, O Ruler of all**

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVING GRACE

One: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

One: May the God of mercy, who forgives all our sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. Amen

***SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER

One: Our Lord and our God, now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit. Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence. Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth. Shape our wills that we may desire your ways. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12: 1-21 NRSV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

One: God is still speaking

ALL: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

**Lives of Worship
Reverend Patty Dodds**

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS

ALL: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Response to the prayers

One: Christ in your Mercy,

ALL: Hear our Prayer.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

One: God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, and in the never ending gift of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: God has abundantly blessed us and calls us to be a community that honors each other, to be servants to others with joy, to share our love and material possessions.

One: Let us honor God from thankful hearts and joyful spirits.

ALL: God of extravagant mercy, we come to dedicate all our offerings to you. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, commissioned to share the Good news. May all that we dedicate -- our abilities, the fleeting moments of our days, the resources entrusted to our management --

announce your reign and the nearness of your kingdom. We give with joy, thanking you for the opportunity to be a blessing to all the families of the earth. Amen

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

***Closing Hymn #448 Take my life, God let it be**

**Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.**

**Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.**

**Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.**

***COMMISSION**

Pastor: As we prepare to leave this place, let us proclaim the ministry to which God has called us:

People: We will go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; and with God's help, let us be of good courage, holding fast to that which is good; With Christ as our model, we will render to no one evil for evil; we will strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak; help the afflicted and honor all people. Let us rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.

***BENEDICTION**

SUNG BENEDICTION (inside back cover of New Century Hymnal)

GO TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND ALL PEOPLE

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

Worship materials adapted from:

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St John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople 4th century

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The Iona Community Worship Book, Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, 1991

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Announcements:

Masks are no longer required in our building. Members and friends should determine based on their personal health and vaccination status if they wish to continue wearing one. Also please be sensitive to one another's need for continued social distancing.

This Sunday's Flowers presented by Sharon Smaling in honor of family birthdays

Next Sunday, August 22, Scripture: First Corinthians 12: 4-14, 26-31

THE GUILD KICK OFF MEETING- Please join us in planning Guild fundraisers and special events at Trinity. We need and welcome your help.

WHERE: Fellowship Hall

WHEN: Tuesday, September 7th (Always the first Tuesday of month.)

TIME: 7:00 pm.

Mark your calendar for September 12th – We will have a special service to celebrate being together again. We will have an opportunity to recognize the grief and loss we experienced during these months and will recommit ourselves to the ministry of our church. Worship will be followed by a meal of baked potatoes with all the toppings. THERE WILL BE CAKE!

We have posted a wish list in the narthex – can you help with an item or more? We will gather all of the items at our September 12 celebration.

Please consider helping with our worship. Ushers, Lay Readers, Sound/Video Volunteers are needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Mark your Calendars for our next Chicken Barbeque and Rummage Sale on September 18th. Individual yard sale spaces will be available for rent.

Our next Arts & Crafts Night will be September 9 from 6-9pm. Bring your own craft or come to chat.

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

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

Serving This Week:

Lay Reader: Mark Cote

Worship Coordinator: Gail Crissey

Greeter: Eileen Himpsl

Media: Kathy Jones