

April 4th, 2021 **10:30 am**
Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
450 West Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554
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Reverend Patty Dodds, Pastor
Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music
Kathy Brown, Lay Reader

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS IN SPIRIT BEFORE GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUIET MEDITATION AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES **“The Three Women”**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Alleluia Chorus” Handel by Penn Central Virtual Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the good news
the grave is empty;
Christ has risen.

ALL: Alleluia

One: This is the good news
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never be put out.

ALL: Alleluia

One: This is the good news
once we were no people;
now we are God’s people.

ALL: Alleluia

One: Christ is our peace,
the indestructible peace
we now share with each other.

ALL: Alleluia

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. Grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Christ Lord is Risen Today #233

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 118: 14-15, 17, 19-24

The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall

enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Because He Lives" - Gaither

THE MESSAGE "Perplexed and Amazed" Reverend Patty Dodds

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

ALL: Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hard-hearted; forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded; and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves.

{Silence}

One: To all and each, on his community and on his friends, where regret is real, Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin again.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

DEDICATION PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

ALL: God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

The Communion Prayer & 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.

Sharing the gifts of grain and grape

Prayer of thanksgiving

ALL: Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen

CLOSING HYMN I Come to the Garden Alone #237

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the son of God discloses.

(Refrain)

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing.

(Refrain)

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

I'd stay in the garden with him, though the night around me be falling;
But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his voice to me is calling.

(Refrain)

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

SENDING

One: You have given yourself to us, Lord.

ALL: Now we give ourselves for others.

One: you have raised us with Christ and made us a new people.

ALL: As people of the resurrection, we will serve you with joy.

One: Your glory has filled our hearts.

ALL: Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.

BENEDICTION

THE CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED – WE CARRY GOD'S LIGHT WITH US

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace"

Worship Resources:

Stages on the Way_Copyright ©2000, 1998 Wild Goose Resource Group, GIA publications

Worship Sourcebook Copyright ©2004 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Announcements:

In April we will have a group of MU students volunteering to work around our property. We would like to be able to mulch all of the beds. Cash donations towards mulch are needed. Please mark your check accordingly.

Bible Study Thursday at 7 pm by Zoom and Thursday at 1 pm in the narthex. *We are working our way through the Gospel of Luke, Join us! .*

Are you part of a group in the church that should be part of the annual report? Please submit something to Adrienne ASAP!

Book Study: Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a time of Pandemic and Beyond by Matthew Fox. Next meeting will be April 11th at 1:30 by Zoom. During this meeting we will review Chapter 2. If you have any questions, or need assistance in getting the book, please contact Pastor Patty.

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 11th, 2021, Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”

He asked them, “What things?”

They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”

Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.