

# PAUL'S FAREWELL TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS



**June 13<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)

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Reverend Patty Dodds, Pastor

Eileen Scion, Lay Reader

Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music

# COMMUNITY GATHERS IN SPIRIT BEFORE GOD

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING MUSIC & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come along with me as a sojourner in faith.

Bring along a sense of expectancy

a vision of high hopes

a glimpse of future possibility

a vivid imagination.

For God's creation is not done.

**ALL: We are called to pioneer a future yet unnamed. As we venture forward, we leave behind our desires for a no-risk life, worldly accumulations, certainty.**

One: Let us travel light in the spirit of faith and expectation, toward the God of our hopes and dreams.

**ALL: May we be witnesses to God's future breaking in.**

One: Come along with me as sojourners in faith secure in the knowledge that we never travel alone.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God, you are worthy of our worship and praise. We give thanks today and always for those who are and who have been our guides and teachers. We offer our lives and hearts that we might be those helpers to others. The life of faith can be difficult in a world that is sometimes hostile and often indifferent to your message of justice and compassion. Trusting in your promises, give us the strength of your Holy Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus. 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                      Knowing You**

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres,  
and wars to own, all I once thought gain I have counted loss;  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

**(Refrain :) Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love You, Lord.**

Now my heart's desire is to know You more, to be found in You,  
and known as Yours, to possess by faith what I could not earn;  
All surpassing gift of righteousness.

**(Refrain:)Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love You, Lord.**

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life, and to know You in Your  
sufferings, to become like You in Your death, My Lord;  
So with you to live, and never die.

**(Refrain :) Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love You, Lord. Love You, Lord.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: The Apostle Paul wrote: "Be kind and compassionate to one another,  
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Let us confess our lack of love, and our need of grace:

**ALL: When we lose patience, when we are unkind, when we are envious,  
when we are rude or proud, when we are selfish or irritable, and when we  
will not forgive: have mercy on us, O God.**

**Help us to not delight in evil, but to rejoice in the truth; help us always to  
protect, to trust, to hope and to persevere: then shall we see you face to  
face, and learn to love as you love us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

One: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips.

Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins,  
and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

**ALL: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

### **THE READING: Ephesians 1:15-23 New Revised Standard Version**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### **Acts 20:18-35 Common English Bible**

When they arrived, he said to them, “You know how I lived among you the whole time I was with you, beginning with the first day I arrived in the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears in the midst of trials that came upon me because of the Jews’ schemes. You know I held back nothing that would be helpful so that I could proclaim to you and teach you both publicly and privately in your homes. You know I have testified to both Jews and Greeks that they must change their hearts and lives as they turn to God and have faith in our Lord Jesus. Now, compelled by the Spirit, I’m going to Jerusalem. I don’t know what will happen to me there. What I do know is that the Holy Spirit testifies to me from city to city that prisons and troubles await me. But nothing, not even my life, is more important than my completing my mission. This is nothing other than the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus: to testify about the good news of God’s grace.

“I know that none of you will see me again—you among whom I traveled and proclaimed the kingdom. Therefore, today I testify to you that I’m not responsible for anyone’s fate. I haven’t avoided proclaiming the entire plan of God to you. Watch yourselves and the whole flock, in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as supervisors, to shepherd God’s church, which he obtained with the death of his own Son. I know that, after my departure, savage wolves will come in

among you and won't spare the flock. Some of your own people will distort the word in order to lure followers after them. Stay alert! Remember that for three years I constantly and tearfully warned each one of you. I never stopped warning you! Now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all whom God has made holy. I haven't craved anyone's silver, gold, or clothing. You yourselves know that I have provided for my own needs and for those of my companions with my own hands. In everything I have shown you that, by working hard, we must help the weak. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus' words: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

One: God is Still Speaking.

**ALL: Thanks Be to God**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

## **THE MESSAGE**

**A Farewell Sermon  
Reverend Patty Dodds**

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

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

\*Please offer words and signs of peace, which keep safety protocols and social distancing

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

One: We shall love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength, and we shall love our neighbor as ourself.

**ALL: We make these offerings as a pledge of our love and loyalty; to God, to each other, and to all our fellow human beings.**

**We commit ourselves to live in love and to be everyone's loyal servants, in the name of Christ our Servant Lord. Amen.**

## THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

### **CLOSING HYMN God Whose Giving Knows No Ending # 565**

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
Natures wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for serving , that your will on earth be done:  
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**

**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace  
conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teachings, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.**

**Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;  
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.  
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,  
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.**

### **SENDING**

**One: Go now remembering what we have done here.**

**ALL: Go now remembering what God has done for us.**

**One: Go now, into the world where apathy and half-heartedness are  
dominant, where love too often is hard to find.**

**ALL: Go now, walking with each other and working with each other in the  
spirit of love.**

**One: Be awake, be alert, be alive to the needs around you and to the glory  
of God in Jesus Christ.**

**ALL: And may God's peace and joy be with us always.**

### **BENEDICTION**

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

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

**Announcements:**

**Please consider helping with our worship. Ushers, Lay Readers, Sound/Video Volunteers are needed. Call or email the church office for more information. Everyone Can Participate!**

**If you are able to donate flowers**, please sign up on the Flower chart on the bulletin board in the narthex. We have a lot of openings and would love to have volunteers to donate to fill these spaces.

**Mark your Calendars for our next upcoming Chicken Barbeques!** July 17<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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 Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 by Zoom. During this meeting we will review Chapter 7.

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)  
**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.

### **Next Sunday's Scripture: Acts 23:1-11 Common English Bible**

Paul stared at the council and said, "Brothers, I have lived my life with an altogether clear conscience right up to this very day." The high priest Ananias ordered those standing beside Paul to strike him in the mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God is about to strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit and judge me according to the Law, yet disobey the Law by ordering that I be struck." Those standing near him asked, "You dare to insult God's high priest?" Paul replied, "Brothers, I wasn't aware that he was the high priest. It is written, You will not speak evil about a ruler of your people."

Knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, Paul exclaimed in the council, "Brothers, I'm a Pharisee and a descendant of Pharisees. I am on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead!" These words aroused a dispute between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. This is because Sadducees say that there's no resurrection, angel, or spirit, but Pharisees affirm them all. Council members were shouting loudly. Some Pharisees who were legal experts stood up and insisted forcefully, "We find nothing wrong with this man! What if a spirit or angel has spoken to him?" The dispute became so heated that the commander feared they might tear Paul to pieces. He ordered soldiers to go down and remove him by force from their midst. Then they took him back to the military headquarters. The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Be encouraged! Just as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so too you must testify in Rome."