



**Paul arrested in Jerusalem
Hope in chains**

June 20th, 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

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

One: Holy Jesus, our risen savior we praise your name. In you we place our trust. Like your Apostle Paul we have a story about the blessing of your love and acceptance. Strengthen us for those times when we need to tell others that story and for the times when others are not open to hearing. With faith and hope we move forward in our life of faith that is sometimes difficult but trusting that you will always be present. May we be filled with the joy that comes with knowing you. 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 # 50 – I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

**I sing the praise of Love almighty, which shines revealed in Jesus' face.
I offer up all that delights me, all mean desires, each fond embrace,
Turn from myself, in pure devotion,
and eager plunge in love's vast ocean.**

**How loving kind you are, how gentle, how your heart reaches after mine!
My heart responds in elemental sympathy, beating perfect time.
This mutual love, this strong attraction,
I know no other satisfaction.**

**Secure my heart and all my being, in you, my Savior, crucified.
You gave your life to work my healing,
bleeding for me, you groaned and died.
Beloved Jesus, my salvation, you have, through love, restored creation.**

**May my heart bear the deep impression of love that Jesus
shares with me,
My life become a pure expression of all that Christian love can be:
Each word, each act, a bright reflection of joy in Love's own resurrection.**

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: 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.”

Matthew 23: 23-28

[Jesus said:] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel! “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

One: God is Still Speaking.

ALL: Thanks Be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE

Strengthened by Hope
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 #403 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness;
I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

(Refrain:) On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

**When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest upon unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.**

**(Refrain:) On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking
sand, all other ground is sinking sand.**

**Christ's oath and covenant and blood support me in the rising flood;
When all around my soul gives way, Christ is then is all my hope and stay.**

**(Refrain:) On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking
sand, all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When Christ shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in Love be
found,
Dressed in God's righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.**

**(Refrain:) On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking
sand, all other ground is sinking sand.**

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 17th and September 18th.

The Return of Our Rummage Sale is approaching! Our next Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, July 16th, from 8am until 2pm and Saturday, July 17th, from 8 until 12pm. Help is needed for set up on the days of the sale and especially for packaging when it is over. Please mark your calendar!

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 Today, June 20th, 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

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 28:17-31 Common English Bible

Three days later, Paul called the Jewish leaders together. When they gathered, he said, "Brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, I'm a prisoner from Jerusalem. They handed me over to the Romans, who intended to release me after they examined me, because they couldn't find any reason for putting me to death. When the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar. Don't think I appealed to Caesar because I had any reason to bring charges against my nation. This is why I asked to see you and speak with you: it's because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain."

They responded, "We haven't received any letters about you from Judea, nor have any of our brothers come and reported or said anything bad about you. But we think it's important to hear what you think, for we know that people everywhere are speaking against this faction."

On the day scheduled for this purpose, many people came to the place where he was staying. From morning until evening, he explained and testified concerning God's kingdom and tried to convince them about Jesus through appealing to the Law from Moses and the Prophets. Some were persuaded by what he said, but others refused to believe. They disagreed with each other and were starting to leave when Paul made one more statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke correctly when he said to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet,

Go to this people and say:

You will hear, to be sure, but never understand;

and you will certainly see but never recognize what you are seeing.

This people's senses have become calloused,

and they've become hard of hearing,

and they've shut their eyes

so that they won't see with their eyes

or hear with their ears

or understand with their minds,

and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them.

"Therefore, be certain of this: God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles.

They will listen!"

Paul lived in his own rented quarters for two full years and welcomed everyone who came to see him. Unhindered and with complete confidence, he continued to preach God's kingdom and to teach about the Lord Jesus Christ.