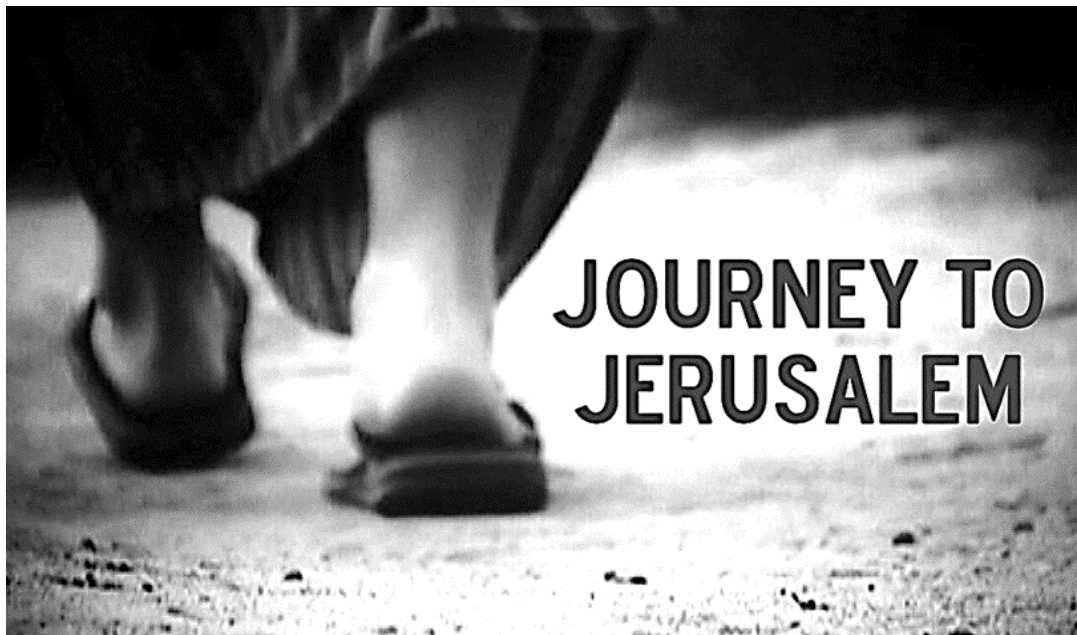


Fourth Sunday of Lent



March 14th, 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

<https://www.facebook.com/MountvilleTRUCC>

(717) 285-5593

Reverend Patty Dodds, Pastor
Dan Molkenhain, Director of Music
Mary Ann Price, Lay Reader

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS IN SPIRIT BEFORE GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

QUIET MEDITATION AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

“Santo, Santo, Santo”

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Blessed be the Lord, The God of Israel

ALL: God is from everlasting to everlasting

One: The Lord our God is gracious and healing

ALL: Nothing can separate us from the love of God

One: Come Let us worship God

PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, your word tells us that there is great good in godliness combined with contentment; that as we brought nothing into this world, so we can take nothing out of it. Help us to be content with what we have; to seek heavenly treasures rather than things of this world. Grant that we might be people who share the wealth that you have provided to us. Let us recognize and help those who are ignored or neglected and left to suffer in our world; those who live in poverty within our community and those who lie in great suffering at the gates of our nation. God, bind your people together and make us bright and shining witnesses to your compassion and your grace as they are revealed in the law, and the prophets, and in Christ Jesus our savior who taught us to pray...

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 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.**

**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.**

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 41: 1-3

Happy are those who consider the poor; the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.

The LORD protects them and keeps them alive; they are called happy in the land. You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.

The LORD sustains them on their sickbed; in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 16:13-17, 19-31 "The Message"

No worker can serve two bosses: He'll either hate the first and love the second or adore the first and despise the second. You can't serve both God and the Bank. When the Pharisees, a money-obsessed bunch, heard him say these things, they rolled their eyes, dismissing him as hopelessly out of touch. So Jesus spoke to them: "You are masters at making yourselves look good in front of others, but God knows what's behind the appearance. What society sees and calls monumental, God sees through and calls monstrous. God's Law and the Prophets climaxed in John; Now it's all kingdom of God—the glad news and compelling invitation to every man and woman. The sky will disintegrate and the earth dissolve before a single letter of God's Law wears out.

“There once was a rich man, expensively dressed in the latest fashions, wasting his days in conspicuous consumption. A poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, had been dumped on his doorstep. All he lived for was to get a meal from scraps off the rich man’s table. His best friends were the dogs who came and licked his sores.

“Then he died, this poor man, and was taken up by the angels to the lap of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell and in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham in the distance and Lazarus in his lap. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, mercy! Have mercy! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool my tongue. I’m in agony in this fire.’ “But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that in your lifetime you got the good things and Lazarus the bad things. It’s not like that here. Here he’s consoled and you’re tormented. Besides, in all these matters there is a huge chasm set between us so that no one can go from us to you even if he wanted to, nor can anyone cross over from you to us.’

“The rich man said, ‘Then let me ask you, Father: Send him to the house of my father where I have five brothers, so he can tell them the score and warn them so they won’t end up here in this place of torment.’ “Abraham answered, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets to tell them the score. Let them listen to them.’ “I know, Father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but they’re not listening. If someone came back to them from the dead, they would change their ways.’ “Abraham replied, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, they’re not going to be convinced by someone who rises from the dead.’”

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE “Seeing Ghosts on the Journey” Reverend Patty Dodds

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

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.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God. You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

DEDICATION PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

ALL: Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself.

As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care.

As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN O Savior, Let Me Walk With You

**O Savior, let me walk with you in earthly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear winning word of love.
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.**

**Teach me your patience; let me be in closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over
wrong.**

**In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only you can give, with you, O Savior, let me live.**

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

SENDING

**ALL: Journey with us, O holy God, as we continue our way to Jerusalem
and the cross. Sharpen our focus, so that our attention may center more on
you than ourselves.**

**Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts,
that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your
Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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

Worship Resources:

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Resources

Reverend Katy Stenta ©KatyandtheWord.com

ReverendRichardFairchild©Kir Shalom

Announcements:

Easter Flower Orders are due by March 21st. Please mail, email or drop off order forms to church office.

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 Wednesdays 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!*

We would like to gather a team to discuss and implement ways to live into our ONA commitment to reach out to the LGBTQ community. Please contact Pastor Patty if you would be willing to serve this way. Hopefully we can attend a seminar presented by the ONA Coalition coming in April.

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 today at 1:30 by Zoom. If you have any questions, or need assistance in getting the book, please contact Pastor Patty.

Watch our Facebook and Website every Wednesday in Lent. We will post a brief service of prayer and reflection based on the lessons from our “Reflections on Prayer” devotional. The scripture for this week, March 17th will be Matthew 14:19-21 “Jesus prayed with a thankful heart.”

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, March 21st, Scripture: Luke 18:32- 19:10 “The Message”

Then Jesus took the Twelve off to the side and said, “Listen carefully. We’re on our way up to Jerusalem. Everything written in the Prophets about the Son of Man will take place. He will be handed over to the Romans, jeered at, ridiculed, and spit on. Then, after giving him the third degree, they will kill him. In three days he will rise, alive.” But they didn’t get it, could make neither heads nor tails of what he was talking about. He came to the outskirts of Jericho. A blind man was sitting beside the road asking for handouts. When he heard the rustle of the crowd, he asked what was going on. They told him, “Jesus the Nazarene is going by.” He yelled, “Jesus! Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!” Those ahead of Jesus told the man to shut up, but he only yelled all the louder, “Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!” Jesus stopped and ordered him to be brought over. When he had come near, Jesus asked, “What do you want from me?” He said, “Master, I want to see again.”

Jesus said, “Go ahead—see again! Your faith has saved and healed you!” The healing was instant: He looked up, seeing—and then followed Jesus, glorifying God. Everyone in the street joined in, shouting praise to God.

Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn’t see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home.” Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, “What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?”

Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, “Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I’m caught cheating, I pay four times the damages.”

Jesus said, “Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of man came to find and restore the lost.”