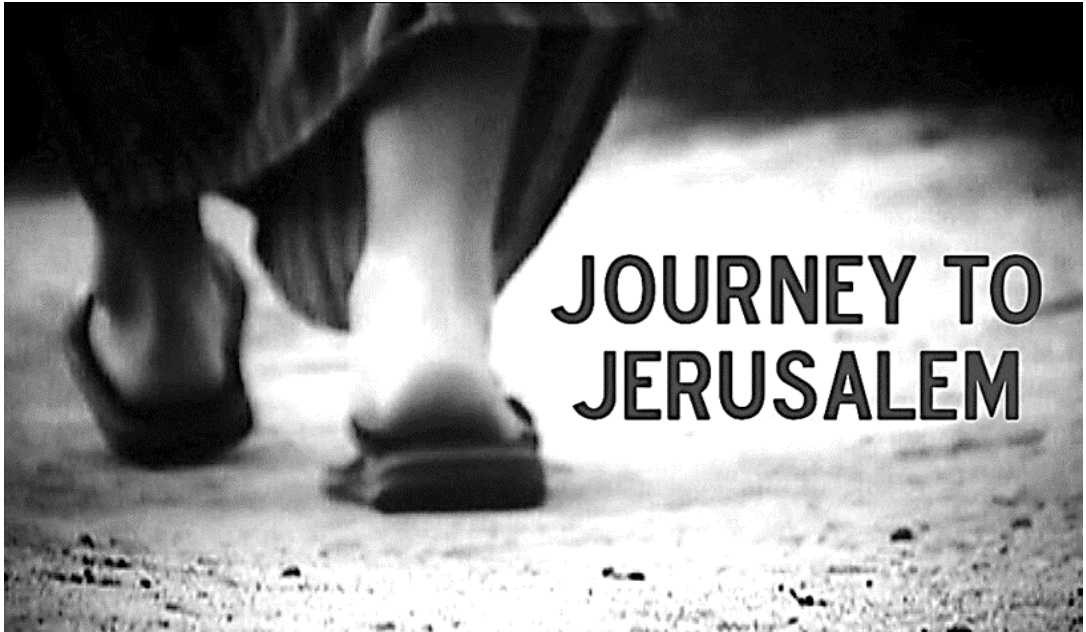


# Fifth Sunday of Lent



**March 21<sup>st</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)

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

(717) 285-5593

Reverend Patty Dodds, Pastor  
Dan Molkenhain, Director of Music

## 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: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**ALL: My soul is longing and fainting for it**

One: Happy are those who live your house, God

**ALL: My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

One: A day in your courts, is better than a thousand elsewhere, God

**ALL: God, you give us such good things, let us rejoice in our trust for you!**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Lord of the lost, We are quick to judge and slow to accept those whom we consider lower than ourselves. But you show us the way of acceptance, forgiveness, and peace. Over and over again you show us that you want to save everyone: the blind beggar who is sitting at the side of the road, the short and innovative tax collector Zacchaeus, and us. We honor your name for teaching us to love, for the sake of the one who is the essence of love itself, Jesus Christ our loving Lord who taught us to pray together...

**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 Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,  
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest up on the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.**

**I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ's face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

## **THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

### **THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 84: 1-4, 10-12**

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my  
flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the  
swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O  
Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your  
house, ever singing your praise. For a day in your courts is better than a  
thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my  
God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and  
shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold  
from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who  
trusts in you.**

### **THE GOSPEL READING 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.”

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**THE MESSAGE “Seeing Jesus 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**

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,**

**teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,**

**healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,**

**eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and**

**believe the gospel.**

#### **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 Pass me Not, O Gentle Savior**

**Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.  
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.**

**Trusting only in your merit, would I seek your face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by your grace.  
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.**

**Be the Spring of all my comfort, more than life to me;  
Not just here on earth beside me, but eternally.  
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.**

## **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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Reverend Katy Stenta ©KatyandtheWord.com

ReverendRichardFairchild©Kir Shalom

## **Announcements:**

**Easter Flower Orders are due TODAY.** If you have not placed your order yet, email or call the church office.

**Next week is Palm Sunday!** We will gather for a drive in worship service. The service will be broadcast to your car radio as we did last summer. We will use Holy Week devotional called "Understanding the Cross" based on the seven last words of Jesus. These will be handed out on Palm Sunday or mailed to you if you prefer. There will be zoom gatherings every evening at 7pm for prayer and discussion of this resource.

**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 March 28<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>, is Luke 1:1-4 "Jesus taught others to Pray"

**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](mailto:Pastor@MountvilletrinityUCC.org)

**Next Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Scripture: Luke 19: 29-48 “The Message”**

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”

Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; and he said, “It is written,

‘My house shall be a house of prayer’; but you have made it a den of robbers.”

Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.