Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ An Open and Affirming Congregation

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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: Let us enter the city with God today

ALL: Let us sing hosanna to our king. To the son of God riding on a donkey

One: With shepherds and prostitutes,

With the blind and the leper

With the abandoned and oppressed

ALL: Let us shout for joy at Christ's coming
And follow the One who welcomes the sinner and dines with the
outcast

One: Let us touch and see as God draws near riding in Triumph towards the Cross

ALL: May we invite Jesus to come into our lives more deeply this Holy Week, rejoicing that He welcomes ALL to follow Him. May we allow Him to draw near. May we take up our cross to follow Him. May we be renewed in the hope of His eternal triumph!

PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, you have done it. You have reached the end of your journey to Jerusalem. Thank you for letting us journey with you. Thank you for letting us enjoy the full moment of your arrival with a festive parade and hope. Thank you for standing up to the officials and not letting them stop the celebration. Even though you know that things will spin to ugly very soon, you let us be our full human selves on Palm Sunday and every day. Grant us the courage and endurance for Holy Week. Help us to see ourselves there, so we can witness your life and death and sacrifice. Help us not skip straight to the resurrection we pray. In Jesus' name 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.

HYMN Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

"Hosanna, loud hosana," the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang; To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd, the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud. The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state, and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours. We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers: "Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice. Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!"

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 118: 19-23

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.

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 19: 29-48 NRSV

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC Trinity Bell Choir "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

THE MESSAGE "Celebrating the end of 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

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.

HYMN Filled with Excitement

Filled with excitement, all the happy throng spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.

There in the distance they began to see, there on a donkey, comes the Savior Christ.

(Refrain): From every corner a thousand voices sing praise to the One who comes in the name of God. Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise, our triumphant song of joy: "Hosanna, hosanna to Christ! Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!"

As in that entrance to Jerusalem, hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ, To our redeemer who still calls today, asks us to follow with our love and faith.

(Refrain): From every corner a thousand voices sing praise to the One who comes in the name of God. Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise, our triumphant song of joy: "Hosanna, hosanna to Christ! Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!"

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

SENDING

One: Go from this worship with the sounds of Hosannas ringing in your ears.

ALL: We will take heart: Jesus is honored and accepted

One: The palms are waved, the cloaks laid upon the road, the sights of celebration are all around.

ALL: We will rejoice; God's realm is on the way.

One: the disciples are in solidarity with Jesus.

ALL: We are determined to strengthen our faith community.

One: There is a cross on a hill in the distance.

ALL: In this time of celebration, we should not forget a time of trial and suffering is not far away.

BENEDICTION

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

Reverend Patty Dodds, Pastor Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music Bridgette Hancock, Lay Reader

Worship Resources:

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Announcements:

Holy Week Schedule: We will gather each evening this week at 7 pm by Zoom

Sunday - Wednesday - Brief service of prayer and discussion on "**Understanding the Cross**" our Holy Week devotional based on Jesus' Seven last words.

On Wednesday Bible study will follow at 7:30

Maundy Thursday Our prayer and discussion time will close with communion in memory of the Last Supper. This service will also be on Facebook Live.

Good Friday -Our prayer and discussion time focusing on the sixth and seventh words will include Tenebrae (The service of Darkness) This service will also be on Facebook live

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, we will gather again for Drive in worship. Invite a friend or neighbor!

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 Wednesday 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: <u>Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a time of Pandemic and</u>
<u>Beyond</u> by Matthew Fox. Meets 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 24th, 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

Next Sunday, April 4th, 2021, Scripture: 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.