



May 30th, 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
Lay Reader, Christine MacReady
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

God of love, in Jesus you have made us all sisters and brothers in Christ. There is no distinction between Gentile and Jew. There is no separation that can remove any from fellowship in Christ's community. Blind us to our differences so that in unity we may proclaim your truth to all, for the sake of Jesus Christ in whom there is harmony and peace. 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 We Love You Realm #312 vs. 1,2,5,6

**We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.**

**We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.**

**Beyond our brokenness, we seek to know your ways
Of deep communion, solemn vows, and hymns of love and praise.**

**We know your truth will last. We trust your reign is sure.
Equip us for those daily tasks that help your world endure.**

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 15: 1-21

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.' The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

"After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord— even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago." Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and

from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every Sabbath in the synagogues.

One: God is Still Speaking.

ALL: Thanks Be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE “No Distinction”

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 Help Us Accept Each Other #388 vs 1, 3,4

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us,
and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and
live.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance,
until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

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:

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!

Thank you! To everyone who helped at the Chicken BBQ and Yard Sale

Mark your Calendars for our next upcoming Chicken Barbeques! July 17th and September 18th.

There will be no Bible Study this week, due to Pastor Patty being on vacation.

Book Study: Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a time of Pandemic and Beyond by Matthew Fox. Next meeting will be June 6th at 1:30 by Zoom. During this meeting we will review Chapter 6. If you have any questions, or need assistance in getting the book, please contact Pastor Patty.

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 19:1-6. 11-20 Common English Bible

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took a route through the interior and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you came to believe?"

They replied, "We've not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Then he said, "What baptism did you receive, then?"

They answered, "John's baptism."

Paul explained, "John baptized with a baptism by which people showed they were changing their hearts and lives. It was a baptism that told people about the one who was coming after him. This is the one in whom they were to believe.

This one is Jesus."

After they listened to Paul, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in other languages and prophesying. God was doing unusual miracles through Paul. Even the small towels and aprons that had touched his skin were taken to the sick, and their diseases were cured and the evil spirits left them. There were some Jews who traveled around throwing out evil spirits. They tried to use the power of the name of the Lord Jesus against some people with evil spirits. They said, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you!" The seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. The evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus and I'm familiar with Paul, but who are you?" The person who had an evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all with such force that they ran out of that house naked and wounded. This became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus. Everyone was seized with fear and they held the name of the Lord Jesus in the highest regard.

Many of those who had come to believe came, confessing their past practices. This included a number of people who practiced sorcery. They collected their sorcery texts and burned them publicly. The value of those materials was calculated at more than someone might make if they worked for one hundred sixty-five years. In this way the Lord's word grew abundantly and strengthened powerfully.