



TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Reverend Patty Dodds, Pastor
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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: We give thanks Holy God, for your church and for the opportunity to be a part of this beloved community. Although filled with flaws and imperfect people, the church continues to show light and hope in the world. Strengthen us as individuals and as a group to persistently proclaim the story of grace with our words and actions. We pray that you will bless this church with vision and vitality that we might go forward in praise, service, and compassion. 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 Renew your Church #311

**Renew your church, its ministries restore: both to serve and adore.
Make us again as salt through-out the land, and as light from a stand.
'Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and hatred spread their
bright, O send us forth with power endued. Help us, God, be renewed.**

**Teach us your word, reveal its truth divine; on our path let it shine.
Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace; from each page show your
face. As you have sent your Christ to save, in love to triumph o'er the
grave. O let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, God, know your word.**

**Teach us to pray, for you are ever near; your still voice let us hear.
Our souls are restless till they rest in you; this is life full and true.
Before your presence keep us still that we may find for us your will and
seek your guidance every day. Teach us, God, how to pray.**

**Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all human kind!
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate; leave us not to our fate.
As you have loved and given your life to end hostility and strife, Your grace
we must be mindful of: Teach us, God, how to love.**

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 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.

One: God is Still Speaking.

ALL: Thanks Be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE

The Never-ending Story
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 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People #181

**You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
Share the favor of life, O people: life in the City of God!**

**(Refrain:) Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God.**

**You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God!**

**(Refrain:) Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God.**

**You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God!**

**(Refrain:) Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God.**

**We are blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our home-land: love is the City of God!**

**(Refrain:) Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God.**

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 stay after the benediction for our quarterly congregational meeting!

Effective July 4, Trinity will no longer require masks to be worn in the building. Members and friends should determine based on their personal health and vaccination status if they wish to continue wearing one. Also please be sensitive to one another’s need for continued social distancing.

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 will be taking a break July and August.

Book Study: Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a time of Pandemic and Beyond by Matthew Fox. Next meeting will be Today, June 27th, at 2:00 by Zoom. During this meeting we will review Chapter 8, Conclusion and Epilogue.

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:

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 New Revised Standard Version

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Matthew 12: 28-31 New Revised Standard Version

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."