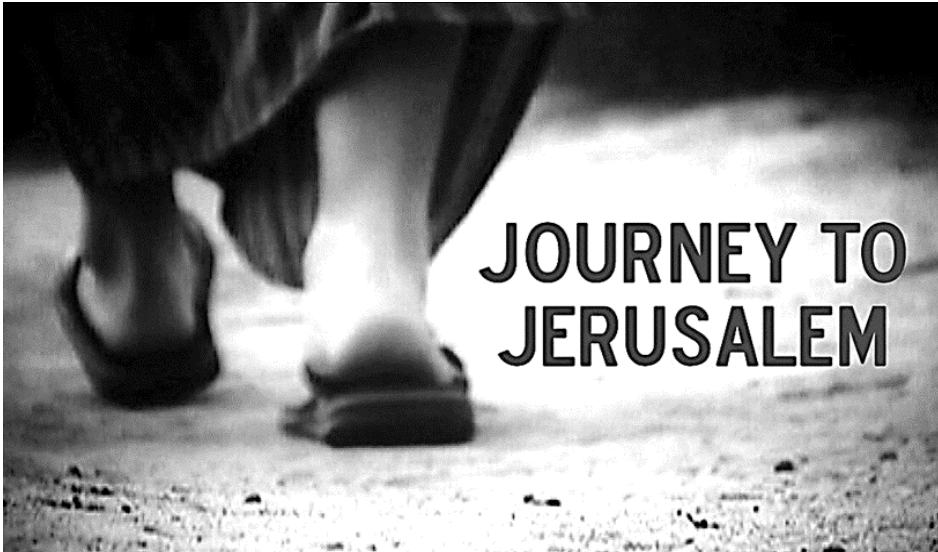


Third Sunday of Lent



March 7th, 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 Molkenthin, Director of Music
Wendy McKelvy, 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: God you call us home

ALL: And whenever one of us is missing, you search for us without ceasing

One: Lord, you are welcoming

ALL: When one of us is discluded, you immediately welcome us to the table.

One: Lord, you are the father, running to embrace us and welcome us home!

ALL: Come let us celebrate as the children of God today.

PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Lord God, we gather in this place not because we are deserving of your love and not because we have lived faithfully before your face. We gather here because you have called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, thanking you. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! You are great, and greatly to be praised. As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope. Through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 O God, How We Have Wandered #202

O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.

And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us, an home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with claf and robe and ring.

O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 119: 167-176

My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly.
I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you.
Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word. Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise. My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes. My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right. Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight. Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 15: 1-32

By this time a lot of men and women of questionable reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, "He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends." Their grumbling triggered this story.

“Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ Count on it—there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner’s rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue. “Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she’ll call her friends and neighbors: ‘Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!’ Count on it—that’s the kind of party God’s angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God.”

Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

“So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any. “That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father. “When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’ “But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

“The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

“His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE “Lost and Found on the Journey” Rev. 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 Apostle’s Creed #881

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Prayer

One: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We Lift Our Hearts to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Jesus Christ we give you thanks and praise that you are here, gathering us together,

Prayer after Communion

ALL: Lord we give thanks for this simple meal in which we have communion with one another and with you, may it serve as a foretaste of the kingdom where all the saints will gather once and for all. We give you thanks and praise. Amen.

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 As We Gather at Your Table #332

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.

Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

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

Announcements

**Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 pm by Zoom
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. We will have our first meeting on Sunday March 14 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 10 will be Luke 6: 12-13 "Jesus prayed when he needed help."

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