



May 2nd, 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

Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music

COMMUNITY GATHERS IN SPIRIT BEFORE GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us we have come to worship and to praise.

ALL: With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our minds, the warmth of our hearts, and the joy of our spirits.

One: We love because God has first loved us, freeing us from the power of sin and death.

ALL: With glad hearts let us join together in praise to God: Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, we come to you in this Easter season, celebrating the power of your love, stronger than death, which raised our Lord Jesus to new life. Jesus, our Christ, you are the fulfillment of prophecy. With scripture and water, you welcome all and claim people as your own. Claim us with water and the word, so that we may rejoice in the life given to us through the gift of your Holy Spirit. 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 Come O Fount of Every Blessing # 459

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount: I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE READING: Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

**"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."**

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

One: God is Still Speaking.

ALL: Thanks Be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE " Led By the Spirit " Reverend Patty Dodds

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

DEDICATION PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

One: God calls us to love one another. In giving our time, talents and treasure we bless our neighbors who are close to us and those who we do not know. With gladness we dedicate the offerings of our life and labor to God

ALL: All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

CLOSING HYMN

Wonderful Words of Life

#319

**Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.**

(Refrain:)

**Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.**

**Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, wake to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
All so freely given, our sure hope of heaven.**

(Refrain:)

**Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.**

**Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, keep me with you forever.**

(Refrain:)

**Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.**

SENDING

One: Christ walks with us in newness of life; go forth in confidence and joy!

ALL: We are the hands and feet of Jesus, carrying God's love and forgiveness to others.

One: We are the only scriptures some will read. Jesus will be known by our deeds.

ALL: In awe and obedience we accept our tasks, with humble sincerity and truth.

One: Let everything that breathes praise God, who equips us for our ministry.

ALL: We praise God, not with boasting or sham, but with honest delight in our mission, in Christ.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace"

Worship Resources: Chalice Worship © 1997 Chalice Press

Announcements:

We plan to resume in-person worship in our sanctuary on Sunday, May 9th. We will continue to follow all safety protocols, including masks and social distancing.

SERVING CHRIST'S CHURCH IN WIDER MINISTRIES-Did you know that you can serve God beyond our congregation? There are positions on committees in the Lancaster Association UCC, in the Penn Central Conference UCC, and in the national setting. If you have abilities in finances, the Lancaster Association is in search of a Treasurer. If you are interested in developing social events with other churches, the Mission and Ministry Committee of the Association is looking for people to serve. If you are wondering about how the UCC makes a difference on a national level, consider being a delegate or an alternate delegate to the General Synod which takes place every other year. There is so much more, too, that takes place beyond our church! If you would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Patty.

Bible Study Thursday at 7 pm by Zoom and Thursday at 1 pm in the narthex. We are studying the book of Acts which tells many stories of the early church, *Join us!*

Book Study: Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a time of Pandemic and Beyond by Matthew Fox. Next meeting will be TODAY, May 2nd, at 1:30 by Zoom. During this meeting we will review Chapter 4. If you have any questions, or need assistance in getting the book, please contact Pastor Patty.

Mark your Calendars for our upcoming Chicken Barbeques! The dates are May 22nd, July 17th and September 18th. At our May 22 Barbeque we will have an outdoor rummage sale from 8 am - noon. Help will be needed on Friday 9 - noon for set up and Saturday for set up, tear down and help at the sale. Please call George Himpel or the church office to sign up.

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, May 9th 2021, Scripture: Acts 9: 1-19 Common English Bible

Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest, seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?" Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply. "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do."

Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one. After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything.

In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

He answered, "Yes, Lord."

The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias enter and put his hands on him to restore his sight."

Ananias countered, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem. He's here with authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on your name."

The Lord replied, "Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Instantly, flakes fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. After eating, he regained his strength. He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days.