



May 9th, 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

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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. God, you call us to be transformed and to pray for our enemies. Give us grace, that we may accept the changed hearts of those who have been our enemies. The world needs your servants for many tasks; both grand and simple. Bless us for your service and shape us into children who rejoice in knowing and proclaiming you to the world. Amen.

OPENING HYMN From All That Dwell Below the Skies #27

**From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, by every tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Eternal are your mercies, God; your truth stands ever high and broad:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE READING: Acts 9: 1-22 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.

After eating, he regained his strength. He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days. Right away, he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. "He is God's Son," he declared.

Everyone who heard him was baffled. They questioned each other, "Isn't he the one who was wreaking havoc among those in Jerusalem who called on this name? Hadn't he come here to take those same people as prisoners to the chief priests?"

But Saul grew stronger and stronger. He confused the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

One: God is Still Speaking.

ALL: Thanks Be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE “Changed” Reverend Patty Dodds

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

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: 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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God

One: Let us give thanks to God most high

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

One: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy.... With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

ALL: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest.

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion... Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Gracious God, we give you thanks for the gifts of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. May the power of this sacrament take hold of our lives, arouse in us a willingness to listen for your call, and inspire us to live boldly for your kingdom in our place and time and in the world to come. Grant that by your Spirit we might live to your glory sharing peace and joy wherever we go. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

CLOSING HYMN

Amazing Grace #547 1,2,4

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

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:

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.

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 May 16th at 1:30 by Zoom. During this meeting we will review Chapter 5. 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 Himpsl 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's Scripture: Acts 9:36-42 and 16:11-15

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.