

Trinity United Church of Christ
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Sunday, May 29, 2022
Memorial Day Weekend



Worship Times:
8AM and 10:30AM
Church School 9AM
Fellowship 10AM

"Awakening Joyful Service Guided by Our Still Speaking God!"

Trinity United Church of Christ
7th Sunday after Easter
May 29, 2022

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*Denotes all who are able, please stand!
Congregational responses are in **bold**.

PRELUDE MUSIC

8AM

“Beautiful America”

By Samuel A. Ward

10:30AM

“Blest Be the Tie”

Setting by Wilbur Held

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #257 **“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus”**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of Jesus Christ be with all the saints!

We have gathered in that grace to worship God.

Rejoice in God and give thanks to God’s holy name.

Let all heaven and earth behold God’s glory.

God is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

All creation is subject to God’s rule and reign.

We bring our prayers and praise to God most high,

We lift our voices in hymns of celebration.

Come, all who hunger, all who thirst;

Be nourished and renewed in this time of worship.

We bring joys and sorrows, fullness and needs.

We come with successes and failures; we come seeking.

*PRAYER

We come seeking a presence that shakes

foundations and helps us build new ones.

We come with all our wounds, asking for healing.

**We come, remembering our baptism and wanting
to claim the difference that makes in our lives.
We come through the shadowy clouds of our unbelief,
seeking the brightness of your glory, O God.
We want a faith to sustain us through times of trial and testing.
Be powerfully present with us, gracious Spirit. Amen.**

***RESPONSE TO PRAYER #257 “Alleluia! Gracious Jesus” (v1)
*Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne!
Alleluia! Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation you’ve redeemed us by your blood.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, we have much to confess.
Let us turn toward our God of forgiveness in this
time of reflection and confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creating God, in selfishness and insecurity,
we have traded your healing for our hatred,
your calling for our comfort, your truth for our traditions,
your covenant for our conventions,
your faithfulness for our fragmentation,
your care and our convenience,
your solidarity for our self-righteousness,
your promise for our praise.**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Speak to us again of your love,
that we may know you, and by knowing you,
we may once again be made whole. Amen.**

(MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION)

KYRIE

***Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.
Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison***

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved of God, hear the good news. God's love never fails us.
Even in our division and despair, God desires to be made known.

We are forgiven. We are welcome. We are one. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Don Walsh

(10:30am)

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURES

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." ¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁶"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. ²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

John 17:20-26

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

SERMON

“Unity through Christ!”

PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER

**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 forgives us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.**

***HYMN #393 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

***EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in an Easter God,
who transforms darkness into light,
hatred into tolerance,
despair into hope.**

**We believe God is always working for good,
changing every Good Friday nightmare
into an Easter dream of new possibility.**

**We believe in the risen Christ,
who befriends us on our roads of searching and
worry; who touches us through song and silence,
word and gesture; who calls us by name to enter
the dance of life.**

**We believe in the Spirit,
the hidden presence behind every resurrection,
who beckons us to leave the tomb-like safety
and trust the gracious invitation to live joyfully.
We believe the Spirit is always renewing the church
and making us people who practice kindness,
encourage beauty and work for justice and freedom.**

**We believe we are an Easter people,
a sign, that with God all things are possible. Amen.**

***CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE -#236 “Halleluja” (2X)
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
**May these gifts be used to build the Beloved Community
through our unity, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
and in the name of Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.**

*HYMN #592 “God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command”

*FINAL BLESSING

POSTLUDE MUSIC

8AM

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

John B. Dykes

10:30AM

“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus”

Setting by Mark Sedio

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Know God: Service Prayers for Easter 7C was written by Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.

And

Gathered by Love: Year C. Lavon Bayler. The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 2001.

The first hymn is "Alleluia!@ Gracious Jesus." The second "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." We will not be singing "Eternal Christ, Who, Kneeling." The final hymn will be "God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand" from # 254 in the old red UCC hymnal. The words should be copied or the hymn copied for the bulletin. Since there is no choir, they will not need copies.

Prelude - Blest Be the Tie. Setting by Wilbur Held. © 1988 Augsburg Publishing House.

Hymns - Alleluia! Gracious Jesus. Words: William C. Dix (1867), alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Richard H. Prichard (1844), arr. © 1906 Oxford University Press, Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Postlude - Alleluia! Gracious Jesus. Setting by Mark Sedio. © 1998 Concordia Publishing House.

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Worship participants:

Rev. Dr. Frederick Young

Lay Liturgist (8AM)
(10:30)

Organist (8AM)
(10:30)

Choir Director

Ushers: (8AM)
(10:30)

Greeters:

Acolyte:

Tech Team:

Pastor

Cindy Blevins

Scott Wehler

Audrey Blackstone

Jane Eiker

John McKay

Scott Breininger

Janet and Steve Sheely

Jane Malone and Sandy Bushe

Roberta Weiant

Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young,
Luke Milhimes, Sue Churchill,
Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Garrison
Redding, George Steckert, Stacey
Rushwald, Mike Chase

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Altar Flowers: Placed by Nancy MacMeekin in memory of my daughter Anne Levine.

SPECIAL NOTE: Today's bulletins were created by a frazzled pastor who spent the week alone in the church office. I ask forgiveness for any typos or odd words and hope that every worship element is present. I also know the format is different, the announcements, weekly calendar, worship stats and weekly church financials are missing. Hopefully next Sunday we will be able to offer a better product!

NEXT SUNDAY IS OUR PENTECOST CELEBRATION IT WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE ALL YOUR REDS, YELLOWS AND ORANGES FROM YOUR CLOSETS!

Trinity United Church of Christ
Gettysburg, PA

7th Sunday of Easter
May 29, 2022

Scriptures: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-28

Sermon: “Unity Through Christ!”

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young

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There are not many specific events that stand out in my memory bank about my childhood, but there is one story I think about time and again. Each time, I remember something else about the experience.

When I was in the 7th Grade, our Youth Group at church was asked to go door to door throughout the church neighborhood, collecting money for our local CROP WALK. We split up into pairs and set out with our folded cardboard CROP WALK banks in hand. My partner was Bobby, a classmate of mine at Hanover Middle School. We canvased our assigned houses within an hour. I can’t recall how much we collected, our banks jingled happily, but I vividly remember what we

did next. Bobby said, “Hey, that’s Billy’s house over there. What do you say we stop in and surprise him?” I agreed and away we went.

Bobby knocked on the door and Billy’s mother answered. She was extremely excited we had decided to visit. She told us Billy was playing in the basement and led us down the stairs. Billy was really surprised to see us and immediately invited us to play. At some point his mother must have disappeared up the stairs, because she reappeared with drinks and plates of food for each of us. Bobby and I spent a good two hours with Billy.

Looking back now there are some things you should know about Billy and his family. A few years before this visit they were in a car accident. Billy and his older brother were in the back. The side of the car where Billy was seated received the hardest hit. Billy was in the hospital for a long time and needed reconstructive surgery on his skull. He was extremely lucky to be alive. He was a little different after the accident. There were parts of his head that would never again grow hair and his processing ability had been forever altered. Before our visit

Billy did not have many friends at school, but he became part of our small community.

Today, I can see that our time spent that afternoon with Billy was like Pastoral Care and his mother, opening their home to us and providing snacks and drinks, was a sign of extravagant hospitality.

Jesus prayed for such community for his disciples. With all our imperfections, differences and struggles our hurts and our collective longings: God calls us into one body. Many lives, one body. It is in our differences and struggles that the glory of which Jesus speaks in John 17 most shines.

The Gospel lesson today is a continuation of Jesus' prayer of peace and love that we heard in last week's text. Christ is praying that we have the courage to believe in ourselves enough to gather together to continue his mission and ministry. I love John 17 because it is The United Church of Christ's original mission... **That They May All Be One!** This cross is also at our High Street entrance. Although one would think the cross by our High Street entrance. Turn to the front of your bulletin. Let's talk about our UCC Symbol. The orb at the base of

the cross represents the world, divided into three parts to signify Jesus' command to his disciples, "You shall be witnesses to Jerusalem and in all *Judea*, and *Samaria* and to *the end of the earth*." The cross is sometimes called the resurrection cross, empty and full of promise. The crown stands for the sovereignty of Jesus, the kingship of the risen Christ over the world. Finally, our mission, taken from the Gospel of John:

*"I ask not only on behalf of these; but also on behalf those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one**. As you, Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."*

For the United Church of Christ, this emblem, rich in the traditions of the past and alive with hope for the future, is particularly appropriate. Our faith stretches back over 2000 years, but we are a church who truly believes that even today, God is Still Speaking! That is why we are committed to hearing the people of God's ancient story anew in our lives. It's why we try to remain attentive to God's creative movement in the world.

We have gotten out of the habit of saying, “*No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!*” in our worship. This might be true, but our extravagant welcome remains the same. I’d like us all to stand and share that welcome now.

(Invite the congregation to greet each other with the phrase, “You are welcome here!”)

When we extend such hospitality, we are showing forth God’s inclusive love. If we live into this great statement we are living into Christ’s hope that we ALL may be one!

Also on the front of our bulletins is our new motto here at Trinity, “*Awakening Joyful Service Guided by Our Still Speaking God!*” This powerful statement is designed to work alongside our mission. What does joyful service look like to you? How can we, in our service to others, promote a sense of welcome at Trinity? Our job is working together with God’s grace to ensure such hospitality is possible. We are a church united in and through Jesus Christ, but we are also a community of believers bound together, ‘United’ by covenant, a promise that no matter what we will remain in relationship with each other.

Today is the last Sunday of the Easter Season. The season when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. As we talk about our promises to remain in relationship as the church, I am reminded of the Resurrection, the promise that was not broken, cannot be broken, will not be broken. Throughout this Easter Season we have been hearing about the Resurrection promise, particularly in the book of Revelation, which depicts Jesus as the Lamb of God. The passage read earlier is the last of these songs. Again we are told about the Tree of Life, a depiction of the risen Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the leader of the community of first believers.

It is true, that community in our churches is hard work involving vulnerability and trust. But if we are a church who really believes that all are welcome and our God is leading us into joyful service, then we might be ready to address the hard stuff that keeps us divided. That is the work of the church.

When I think about the adversity Billy faced at such a young age, I can't help but remember the gold cross he wore around his neck everyday. I'm sure it meant more to him than I will ever know. I can't

help but think that his time of tragedy helped to shape not only his life, but our lives too. After Middle School the three of us lost touch. Both Billy and Bobby decided to attend the local school of technology. Our friendship, at a time in life when all of us were going through rapid changes in body and mind, was truly a gift.

One of my favorite hymns in our New Century Hymnal is *God of Change and Glory*. We are not singing it today, but, I want to share the words of the refrain:

*Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise,
praise!*

This is the prayer of Jesus, this is the message of the United Church of Christ, these words lead us here at Trinity: That we may all be one!

Amen.

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A Memorial Day (Pastoral) Prayer

Lord God, until there is war no more and you wipe every tear from every eye, we will remember. We will remember those who have served and died for the sake of something greater than themselves. We will remember and give thanks for the men and women who knowingly put themselves in harm's way so that others might be safer. We will remember the families who grieve this day and every day for brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, friends and spouses, who lost their lives while wearing the uniform of our country.

Lord God, until the Prince of Peace returns and death and crying are no more, we will remember. We will remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country. We will support those left bereft in their absence. We will remember to seek reconciliation, knowing that while we cannot control the ways of the world, we can seek to work for peace in our own lives and communities.

Lord God, until you beat swords into plowshares and the ox and lamb lie down together, we will remember. We will remember that peace doesn't happen without peacemakers and violence won't cease unless we stand in the breach and begin to repair it. We will remember that war is costly, the price paid in priceless lives cut short.

Today we especially remember those who recently lost their lives while doing everyday tasks such as shopping for groceries at Topps Markets in Buffalo, NY and going to school like the children and teachers who were killed within the safety of Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Lord, remind us ALL that there is a vast difference between the right to bear arms and the act of using those arms to

take the lives of innocent people! It seems the wars we continue to fight are not all on foreign soil.

Lord God, until there is no need for men and women to place themselves in harm's way, or until no harm is done to unsuspecting victims, we will continue to remember and give thanks for those who did and died.

In the name of the One who grants us the peace that passes understanding, we pray.
Amen.

Prayer was adapted from a prayer written by JILL DUFFIELD, Presbyterian pastor. 2017.