

Live
Lent
with Love



Trinity United Church of Christ

60 East High Street Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325 717-334-7266
tuccgburg@gmail.com www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org

Trinity United Church of Christ
March 3, 2024
8AM and 10:30AM Worship
Third Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

*If this is your first time with us, or if you have come to this sacred space your entire life, we are glad to be on this journey of faith with you. Trinity believes that **whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!** To enhance your worship experience, we have large print bulletins and hearing support devices available.*

Please ask an usher or greeter for assistance.

Enter to worship today but stick around to see what God is doing in this place!

*Congregational responses in **bold print**. * Denotes standing as you are able.*

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WELCOME/TIME OF SHARING

PRELUDE - "What Wondrous Love is This" – *L. Larson*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice
in the God who makes us free.

**We gather, recognizing that not all human beings
have known this freedom.**

The divine will was made known in Eden and in Egypt;
in Gettysburg and in Cape Town.

**Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery,
our destiny in Christ is liberty.**

***HYMN #193 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (Vs 1-4)**

***PRAYER**

**We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross,
sign of human shame and divine wisdom.**

**Like Jesus, we would follow faithfully in your way;
like Jesus, we would live to you and die to you.**

We are your people; we belong to you.

**May your name be glorified in your church
as we are open to your presence today;
through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE #193 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (V1)**

*In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o’er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
gathers ‘round its head sublime.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**In this season of Lent we reflect on those things
that lead us away from the life we desire.
We focus on whatever we do that oppresses and enslaves others
who, like us, are created in the image of the divine.
And now we seek the grace that frees us to live
in faithfulness to holy love. Amen**

(Moment for Silent Prayer)

SUNG RESPONSE #188 “Give Me a Clean Heart”

*Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I’m not worthy of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart and I’ll follow you.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**The God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt,
is the power that frees us from our sin.
Live in the grace of God’s love as you walk in the way of Jesus
and surely you shall find mercy at the end of that road. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

J. N. Beck
Senior Choir

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this;

and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.²³ When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone

SERMON
"Our Personal Temple"

HYMN #12 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"
(Remain Seated)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 Apostle's Creed**

**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 again 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**

***CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

This Lenten season, as we reflect on the hard choices Jesus made,
may our gifts reflect our choice of the Christian Way of:
Compassion, healing and love.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #778**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Bless these gifts, O God, as you have
blessed us with the gift of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**It is right and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
O God. You created us to live in communion with you,
yet we turned away. You spoke through your prophet Joel:
Return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**We come on this third Sunday of Lent,
knowing our failings but trusting in your steadfast mercies.**

**Thanks be to you, Holy God.
You are holy and blessed is your child Jesus Christ.**

**Your Spirit flowed through his life,
as he became the bridge for our reconciliation.
In this season we remember his life and work.**

**We remember your gift of Baptism.
We reflect on the mystery of the cross,
we dare to ponder resurrection.
We offer you our worship and our lives.**

Holy, Holy, Holy #793
Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:

**“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**“Drink from this all of you; this is the blood of my new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION/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 forgive 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 the Glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We praise you for this heavenly banquet that you have so freely given us.

Thank you that we carry in our hearts the riches of this eternal goodness.

May we pour it out wherever we go, lighting up the darkness with truth,

speaking out hope where there is despair,

and weaving your unconditional love into all we do.

Send us now in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.

May we live to be all that you have destined us to be.

*HYMN #198 “Lift High the Cross”

*FINAL BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

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Today’s Worship Elements have been adapted from the following resources:

Opening Prayer

The United Church of Christ Book of Worship. New York. 1986.

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

Written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, CA
and a member of the board of directors of ProgressiveChristianity.org.

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Prayers to Share Year B: David Sparks. Woodlake Books. 2002.

Prelude: *What Wondrous Love Is This*. Arranged by Lloyd Larson. Copyright 2022 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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I Sing the Mighty Power of God. Public Domain

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Today’s Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young		Pastor
Roberta Weiant	8:00am	Serving Elders/ Lay Liturgists
Jane Malone	10:30am	
Sara Shank		Organist
John McKay		Senior Choir Director
Mark Luckenbaugh	8:00am	Percussion
M. Jane Alleman	8:00am	Ushers
Lucy Greene, George Steckert	10:30am	
Ann & Buck Harvey	10:30am	Greeters
Buck Harvey	10:30am	Acolyte
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Sue Churchill,		Tech Team
Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Terry Krietz		

John Bowring, 1825

1. In the cross of Christ I glo-ry,
tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sa-cred sto-ry
gath-ers 'round its head sub-lime.
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me,
hopes de-ceive, and fears an-noy,
Nev-er shall the cross for-sake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beam-ing
light and love up-on my way,
From the cross the ra-diance stream-ing
adds more lus-ter to the day.
4. Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure,
by the cross are sanc-ti-fied;
Peace is there that knows no mea-sure,
joys that through all time a-bide.
5. In the cross of Christ I glo-ry,
tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sa-cred sto-ry
gath-ers 'round its head sub-lime.

Gal. 6:14

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

1. I sing the might-y power of God
that made the moun-tains rise,
That spread the flow-ing seas a-broad,
and built the loft-y skies.
I sing the wis-dom that or-dained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's com-mand,
and all the stars o-bey.
2. I sing the good-ness of our God
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the crea-tures with a word,
and then pro-nounced them good.
Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played,
wher-e'er I turn my eye:
If I sur-vey the ground I tread,
or gaze up-on the sky!
3. On earth there's not a plant or flower
but makes your glo-ry known.
The clouds a-rise and spread their showers
by or-der from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you
and ev-er in your care;
Wher-ev-er peo-ple gath-er, you,
O God, are pres-ent there.

Ps. 136:5–9; James 1:17

Lift High the Cross

George William Kitchin (1827–1912)
Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim;
Let all a-dore and praise that sa-cred name.

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Sav-ior trod,
the Lamb vic-to-rious, Christ the Child of God.

Refrain:

2. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

Refrain:

3. O Christ, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,
your death has brought us life e-ter-nal-ly.

Refrain:

4. Set up your throne, that earth's de-spair may cease,
be-neath the shad-ow of its heal-ing peace.

Refrain:

5. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be:
praise to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry.

Refrain:

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John 1:29–34; Rom. 5:6–11; 6:3–8; Rev. 7:9–17; 22:1–5

Trinity United Church of Christ
Gettysburg, PA

3rd Sunday of Lent
March 3, 2024



Sermon

"How well are you treating your temple?"

John 2:13-22

Rev. Dr. Frederick Young

Pastor

My body is what connects me to all these other people. Wearing my skin is not a solitary practice but one that brings me into communion with all these other embodied souls. It is what we have most in common with one another. In Christian teaching, followers of Jesus are called to honor the bodies of our neighbors as we honor our own. In his expanded teaching by example, this includes leper bodies, possessed bodies, widow and orphan bodies, as well as foreign bodies and hostile bodies, none of which he shied away from. Read from the perspective of the body, his ministry was about encountering those whose flesh was discounted by the world in which they lived.

It is what preacher and teacher, Barbara Brown Taylor claims next that reminds me most of this lesson from John:

What many of us miss, in our physical dis-ease, is that our bodies remain God's best way of getting to us.

An Altar in the World. 2009.

Our take away from today's Gospel is to honor our bodies. Our flesh and bones, hair and cells, fingers, toes, and organs. Jesus rips through the Temple, flipping over tables, scaring the animal sacrifices and daring all within ear shot to destroy it. Not the brick and mortar, but as John describes, Jesus as the living temple, where God and humanity

meet. The temple that he claims will be 'rebuilt' in three days upon destruction. The same body that is sacrificed, rises up again to ensure our eternal life. Jesus invites us to be a part of the good flesh, so that we might come to know God personally. God's home is not a courtyard, narthex, or altar, rather the Divine lives in a different kind of temple; Jesus' own body.

It is a hard thing to admit that our bodies are not invincible, yet they remain holy places, dwellings for God. It is just as hard to recognize that God loves all bodies, everywhere! When we learn to love our own being as a divine temple, it becomes much harder not to love and respect another's body as the same. Jesus interfered with Temple life for the sake of justice and compassion. He would not stand for the violation of any sanctuary... anyone's body. As modern day followers we too should raise our voices when people are exploited, abused, discriminated against or forced to live in poor or oppressive situations.

Following Jesus, The United Church of Christ has a deep history of getting into good trouble for the sake of justice and compassion. We are

a church that has placed ourselves in service to the oppressed, poor, marginalized and mistreated no matter who they might be or where they are from. I would like to think that this passage from John's Gospel depicting Jesus' zeal for God's house is one of the reasons for our church's desire to make a difference in the world. Jesus did not use only love and forgiveness. He allowed a holy anger from within to move him deeper into action on behalf of those without a voice of their own.

Today we are challenged by the ancient word to look at our physical selves as temples, where heaven and earth meet. Like Jesus, we need to move beyond what keeps us comfortable and recognize our range of emotions. We are designed to feel anger, fear, joy, happiness, sadness, frustration, and delight. As dwellings for God on earth we need to live our Christianity with our whole selves.

I will never forget one young man's excited reaction during a confirmation class when we were discussing the events of Holy Week and I asked what happened on Monday. Without skipping a beat, Andrew danced about and claimed, "*Jesus went ballistic in the*

Temple!” We all should have this level of justice and compassion when recognizing the altar within. Interestingly enough, he is now a police officer.

Last week, I asked if Trinity was ready to follow Jesus. Are we? Are we going ballistic? Are we willing to be emotional for the sake of others? We can be moved when pregnant mothers are in need of care and supplies for their children and respond compassionately by collecting diapers. We can be frustrated when people in our community are without shelter in the cold weather and respond by helping to provide a healthy breakfast. We can be sad and disappointed that neighbors may go hungry and fill a table and grocery cart, not once, but twice. These are ways in which we embody God’s home in the world.

“What many of us miss, in our physical dis-ease, is that our bodies remain God’s best way of getting to us.”

Barbara Brown Taylor

We are God’s hands and feet, the Creator’s body on earth! How will we respond to Jesus when he gives us the invitation to get comfortable in

our skin and get to know God personally? I close with yet another beautifully crafted poem from author and artist, Jan Richardson.

Blessing the Body

This blessing takes one look at you
and all it can say is holy.

Holy hands. Holy face. Holy feet.
Holy everything in between.

Holy even in pain. Holy even when weary.
In brokenness, holy. In shame, holy still.

Holy in delight. Holy in distress. Holy when being born.
Holy when we lay it down at the hour of our death.

So, friend, open your eyes (holy eyes).
For one moment see what this blessing sees,
this blessing that knows how you have been formed
and knit together in wonder and in love.

Welcome this blessing that folds its hands in prayer
when it meets you; receive this blessing that wants to kneel
in reverence before you:
you who are temple, sanctuary, home for God in this world.

—Jan Richardson

Amen.