



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

April 14, 2024

8AM and 10:30AM Worship

3rd Sunday of Easter

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. 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.*

+++++

WELCOME/TIME OF SHARING

No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,
You are welcome here!

PRELUDE – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” – *J. Martin*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is Risen and greets us with peace.

The peace of Christ is among us, indeed.

We are witnesses of God's glory and steadfast love.

The transforming love of Christ is among us, indeed!

Come, let us worship.

***HYMN “Come Christians Join to Sing (*insert*)**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of love and light,

we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness,
amazed to discover your transformative love.

God, we desire for you to abide within us,

and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

**Be with us and awaken within us the call to love one another,
in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE #505 "Sweet Hour of Prayer" (V1)**

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Maker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ever-present God,
Forgive us when we stand in disbelief,
and comfort us when our fears outweigh your peace.
**God, forgive us when we become too busy to pray.
Help us when we fail to see our neighbors in need.**

Abiding God, forgive us when we are overwhelmed
with bad news, and shut down completely.
In these times, remind us that we are called to be
your love-lived, your faithful witnesses, and your humble servants.
**Help us to wake up to the work of love,
and to your renewing strength each day, we pray. Amen.**

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ANTHEM (10:30am)

"Kyrie"

A. Dvorak, R. E. Schram

Senior Choir

Georgia Hollabaugh, Flute

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART (8:00am)

SCRIPTURES

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON

“Recognizing Love”

(10:30am Video)

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 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.**

**HYMN #43 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
(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**

Let us give thanks for God’s steadfast love by being witnesses
to those who are hungry for food, encouragement, and relationship.
Let us also witness to those who are poor in spirit and offer ourselves in
gratitude, generosity and witnesses to God’s goodness by our joyful giving.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #236 “Halleluja” (2X’s)
*Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.
Halle, halle, halleluja. Halleluja, halleluja.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of abundant love, we offer a portion of our time, spiritual gifts,
and resources as a sign of our love for you and the world.
O God, we give you our thanks for all that we have and ask a special
blessing on these offerings. We pray that our collective offering be an
expression of healing, that brings hope to a hurting world. Amen.**

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

***FINAL BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

+++++

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

To Give Thanks for What God has Done, Service prayers with Communion for Easter Sunday Year B, was written by the Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume, pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ in West Palm Beach. Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

+++++

Prelude - *Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling*: Tune: Bunessan, written by Charles Wesley. Arranged by Joseph Martin. Published by Shawnee Press © 2009

Hymns - *Come, Christians Join to Sing*: Public Domain

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling: Text by Wesley: Tune by Beecher. Word alterations © 1992 Pilgrim Press

Alleluia, Gracious Jesus!: Text by William C. Dix, Tune by Prichard. Arrangement © Oxford

University Press. From THE ENGLISH HYMNAL, 1906

Anthem – *Kyrie*: Music by Antonin Dvorak. Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram © 1998 by Alfred Music

Permission to reprint / podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE with License # A-712060. All rights reserved.

Today’s Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young		Pastor
Jim Orner	8:00am	Lay Liturgists
Lucy Greene	10:30am	
Sara Shank		Organist
John McKay		Senior Choir Director
Mark Luckenbaugh	8:00am	Percussion
Jane Malone	8:00am	Ushers
Carl Barrick, George Steckert	10:30am	
Ruby Warren, Neil Hollabaugh	10:30am	Greeters
Bonnie Smith	10:30am	Acolyte
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Russell Bailey,		Tech Team
Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Terry Krietz		

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing *Al - le - lu - ia!* *A - men!*
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, *Al - le - lu - ia!* *A - men!*
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, *Al - le - lu - ia!* *A - men!*

loud praise to Christ our King; *Al - le - lu - ia!* *A - men!*
 let prais - es fill the sky; *Al - le - lu - ia!* *A - men!*
 life shall not end the strain; *Al - le - lu - ia!* *A - men!*

let all, with heart and voice, he - fore his throne re - joice;
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 on heav - en's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore.

praise is his gra - cious choice. *Al - le - lu - ia!* *A - men!*
 his love shall nev - er end. *Al - le - lu - ia!* *A - men!*
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia!" *A - men!*"

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling,
joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing,
all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion;
pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion,
en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it
in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
Let us all in you in-her-it,
let us find your prom-ised rest;
Take a-way our love of sin-ning;
Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
End of faith, as its be-gin-ning,
set our hearts at lib-er-ty.

3. Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er,
let us all your life re-ceive;
Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver,
ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
You we would be al-ways bless-ing,
love you as your an-gels love,
Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing,
wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.

Copyrighted material may not be reproduced. See copyright notices.

JESUS CHRIST

4. Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion;
pure and spot-less may we prove;
Let us see your great sal-va-tion
per-fect-ly re-stored in you;
Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,
till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be
lost in won-der, love, and praise.

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

William C. Dix, 1867; alt.

1. Al-le-lu-ia! Gra-cious Je-sus!
Yours the scep-ter, yours the throne!
Al-le-lu-ia! Yours the tri-umph,
yours the vic-to-ry a-lone!
Hark! the songs of peace-ful Zi-on
thun-der like a might-y flood;
Je-sus, out of ev-ery na-tion
you've re-deemed us by your blood.

2. Al-le-lu-ia! Not as or-phans
are we left in sor-row now.
Al-le-lu-ia! You are near us;
faith be-lieves, nor ques-tions how.
Though the cloud from sight re-ceived you
when the for-ty days were o'er,
shall our hearts for-get your prom-ise,
"I am with you ev-er-more."

3. Al-le-lu-ia! Bread of an-gels,
you on earth our food, our stay.
Al-le-lu-ia! Here the sin-ful
flee to you from day to day.
In-ter-ces-sor, friend of sin-ners,
earth's Re-deem-er, plead for me,
and the songs that sound in heav-en
will re-peat your gra-cious plea.

ASCENSION

4. Al-le-lu-ia! Christ e-ter-nal,
noth-ing can dis-rupt your reign;
Al-le-lu-ia! Born of Mar-y,
heaven and earth are your do-main.
Hu-man life you ful-ly en-tered,
tend-ing those we count the least,
serv-ing both as Priest and Vic-tim
in the eu-cha-ris-tic feast.

Eph. 1:15–23; Heb. 9:11–14



Trinity United Church of Christ
Gettysburg, PA

Easter 3
April 14, 2024

Sermon
“Recognizing Love!”

1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:13-35

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young
Pastor

God has been met and known, even in a human life
that was once a helpless infant.

In a human life the limits of finitude have been broken,
including the ultimate barrier of death, that is the story we have to tell...

But we do not capture Christ.

Our minds do not embrace Christ.

Our words point to Christ.

Our images interact with Christ.

But, what is Christ for **our** day?

What images can we employ that will enable us **to be** the body of Christ
with integrity, while remaining women and men of relevance in our
generation?

John Shelby Spong

+++++

Christ meets us on the road to our Emmaus, in ordinary ways and
places and within the spaces we retreat when life is too much to handle.
The wandering disciples had not intended to create a sacred place when
they pulled up an extra seat at the dinner table for a fellow traveler, but
by breaking their bread with a stranger they recognized the risen Lord.

Bishop Spong asks us what images we can employ in order for us to be Christ's hands and feet in our world. Around a table set for dinner, these early disciples symbolize Christ, simply by sharing their meager resources. Hospitality was key in the disciples' gift of recognition. Emmaus can truly be a story of sustenance, feeding and filling one another. Cleopas and company shared their meal and discovered they had been in the presence of the Lord. They did not keep the blessing to themselves. As soon as he disappeared, Christ's companions traveled back to Jerusalem to find their friends.

Cleopas told the other disciples how they had walked and talked for hours with a stranger who revealed himself in the breaking of the bread, how they had encountered their Lord at the table. While they were still working through their astonishment at this tale, Christ appeared to them all in the upper room where they were hiding. This resurrection revelation changed everything for these young Christians, who were no longer afraid, but empowered, who no longer hid in

hopelessness, but had a new purpose, a divine commission. This is our legacy! Through us, Jesus' ministry, love and peace continue.

1 John 3:1-3 is one of my favorite passages, as it claims us as children of God, legacies of this abundant, incredible love. Jesus declared the greatest commandment of all was to love. Keeping that in mind, reading verses 4-7 is all about failing to keep the laws of love.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

In these verses sin is not all the vices we imagine would be prohibited, it is a lack of love that becomes equated with lawlessness. If we refuse to love God, if we fail to live with each other in compassion, empathy, justice, and dignity, we are turning away from the very heart of the message.

The wise sage of this epistle had an experienced faith. They wrote to the young Christians who struggled to keep their faith amid the darkening cultural wiles of their Mediterranean world. This letter was sent to take the church community back to the center of their faith. He began by reminding them of what they had experienced and why they believed and behaved as they did, Christ's love and sacrifice.

John's community of Ephesus wasn't much different from those living in Jerusalem's community of first disciples. Just as the disciples continued to seclude themselves for fear of persecution for believing in Jesus, perhaps Christians in Ephesus were mocked and persecuted for following a resurrected Christ. The writer of 1 John places a high regard on Christian experience. However, he also reminds the reader that what matters is not how high one jumps but how straight one walks. Belief and behavior are linked, as we believe, so we behave. Because Christ lived and loved, we live and love in return!

Biblical historian, Joseph Loconte, in his book, *The Searchers: A Quest for Faith in the Valley of Doubt*, says this about the journey between Jerusalem and Emmaus:

The disciples were shocked and in utter disillusionment that their leader, the one they thought would redeem Israel, had been crucified. They had lost all hope, yet something called them out of their state of doubt and to the stranger coming alongside them on the road. They did not recognize him as Jesus – not yet – but their intuition drew them to him.

The point of the Emmaus journey is that Jesus, although crucified, is alive and continues to show up and share life. How does the Emmaus encounter inspire your faith today? Where do you recognize the living Christ in your daily activities? Life transforming moments can happen anywhere at any time. I encourage every one of us to find a way to be Christ for another and then keep doing that as many times and in as many ways as possible. How will you share the love of the resurrected Christ?

God has been met and known, even in a human life

that was once a helpless infant.

In a human life the limits of finitude have been broken,
including the ultimate barrier of death, that is the story we have to tell...

Amen.