

Trinity United Church of Christ  
60 East High Street  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

September 13, 2026  
9:30AM Worship

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“Forgiving” by Jan Richardson

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*Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!*

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*\*Please stand as you are able; **BOLD** print - congregational response*

*\*All words provided on the screen*

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TIME OF SHARING/GREETING

PRELUDE MUSIC      “Blessings”

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed be the name of our God  
from this time forth and for evermore!  
**From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of God is to be praised!**

It is Good to give thanks to God,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
**To declare your steadfast love in the morning  
and your faithfulness by night.  
Let us worship our God together!**

**\*HYMN #301      “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

**\*PRAYER**

**As we gather here in your name, O Christ,  
you are already among us.  
Keep us open to your presence in us and around us  
that we may grow closer to you. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE TO PRAYER**

*(1<sup>st</sup> Verse of opening song)*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Will you join me in confessing our disconnect  
from each other and from God  
as we turn toward our Creator in an attitude of prayer.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God, we confess our ordinary faults:  
the friend we did not call, the smile withheld, the road rage,  
the gossip spread, the unnecessary critical word, the time wasted.  
Please forgive us and make us sensitive, aware,  
and caring, in Christ’s name. Amen.**

*(Moment for Silent Prayer)*

KYRIE #750

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Lord, have mercy upon us.***

Christ, have mercy upon us.

***Christ, have mercy upon us.***

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Lord, have mercy upon us.***

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Forgiveness is the threshold.

First, we look out, then we are sent out.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“God of Eternity”

**Senior Choir**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before

the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

#### Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

#### SERMON

*“Impartiality!”*

HYMN #23

**“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

*(Remain Seated)*

#### 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.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH #887 The New Creed**

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**\*CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

As we celebrate our gifts, may we remember that in our gift-giving  
we participate with God in providing for the needs of God's people.  
Let us give generously and from the heart.

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #785**

*We give you but your own, what-e'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**May our gifts become symbols of our intention to minister with God  
to satisfy the needs of those whom God loves. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #531**

**"God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"**

**\*FINAL BLESSING**

Let us go forth to forgive as we have been forgiven: seventy times seven!  
freed of the paralyzing burden of sin to do justice, love mercy,  
walk confidently, and humbly, with God. Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE**

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**Portions of today's worship have come from:**

*Portions of this worship have been adapted from: UCC Resource – Worship Ways, Before the Amen, edited by Tirabassi and Tirabassi and Taught By Love by Lavon Bayer.*

**PRELUDE:** *Blessings.* Words and Music by Laura Story. Arranged by Heather Sorenson. Copyright© 2011 Laura Stories and New Spring Publishing.

**ANTHEM:** *God of Eternity.* Words by Fanny Crosby. Arranged by David Lantz. Copyright © 1985 Shawnee Press.

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**The Housing Authority parking lot will be closed this week-end September 11, 12, 13 as they are repainting and sealing the lot.**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** In memory of loved ones, and a glorious Fall to all, by Nancy MacMeekin

**PRAYER LIST:** Available in the Gathering Area. Please call the office to be removed from the list.

**USHERS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER** – please sign up in Gathering Area.

**ALTAR CARE:** “A few good people” are needed to Care for the Altar to prepare communion, change paraments and candles and order Altar Flowers. Please Nancy MacMeekin 717-334-2111

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**BOOK STUDY: Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.** We will meet in the Gathering Area. The book we will be reading is “Memorial Days” by Geraldine Brooks. *A 2025 memoir by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks. It explores the sudden death of her husband, journalist and author Tony Horwitz, who passed away after collapsing on a Washington, D.C., sidewalk on Memorial Day in 2019 . If you would like to join us, please contact Jane Malone.*

**COME TO CHURCH . . . STAY FOR LUNCH: Sunday, September 20 following 9:30am worship.** Menu: Taco Bowls, Fresh Seasonal Fruit. Sign-up in the Gathering Area to be sure enough food is prepared.

**HERITAGE FESTIVAL: Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm – 4:00pm at the Gettysburg Rec Park.** This annual celebration showcases the many cultures that enrich Adams County through music, food, art, and community traditions. Guided by the festival's motto, “Sharing and appreciating the cultures of Adams County

*through music, food, and art... A celebration of unity in our community,"* the event brings together residents and visitors for an afternoon of cultural discovery and connection. **Trinity will have a booth there and will need help setting up, staffing, and tearing down. Please Call George Steckert if you can help.**

**BLESSING ROOM – Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – 11:00am-1:00pm.**

On Monday 8/31, over 40 needy folks benefitted from the Blessings Room products. The shelves are AGAIN empty. We still have enough toothbrushes and toothpaste, but everything else is gone. Even when the "pickings" were thin, those who found something they needed were full of thanks to our congregation.

**Please keep the donations coming. This is a much needed ministry in our community.** From the Social Concerns Committee

**POLISH POTTERY BINGO! October 10<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$25.00.** Doors open at 5:00pm. Games begin at 6:00pm. Call the church office or the store to reserve your tickets. They go fast! We are asking the congregation to donate some desserts.

**CHANGE FOR CHRIST – “HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS ON”:** Have extra change in your pockets? Tired of carrying it around? Drop it in the vase with candle located in the Gathering Area.

**HYMNALS!** They are more than just songbooks. Stop by the History Cabinet to see what else our hymnals provide for our faith journey. **Trinity’s History Task Force.**

**NEWS FLASH!** In an effort to inform congregation members and/or the wider community of what is happening in our church, the Communication Committee is seeking information to pass on. If your committee is doing something you would like to share, please let the Communications Committee know. **September’s “info gatherer” is Janet Sheely at jlsheely13@gmail.com or 717-357-1789**

**SUMMER OUTREACH:** As the growing season winds down, there may still be some garden goodies out there. Please bring in your excess produce. Those of us with not-so-green thumbs can then share in your harvest by placing money in the jar.

**Proceeds will go to the Independent Living Program of Adams County Children and Youth.** More info on Summer Outreach table. \*\*\*\* **Kathy Clark will be speaking on the Independent Living Program Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.**

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**ATTENDANCE 9/6/2026:** 9:30am **52**; On-line **135**; Total **187**

**FINANCE REPORT 9/6/2026:**

Envelope Offering Need: ***\$133,632.00***      Envelope Offering Rec'd: ***\$115,189.50***  
Property Fund Need: ***\$13,860.00***      Property Offering Rec'd: ***\$11,987.50***

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**THIS WEEK**

**Today, 9/13: 12:30pm – 4:30pm MDANA – *Fellowship Hall***

**Tuesday, 9/15: DEB late coming in/BRUCE out**

**1:15pm Spiritual Council - *Parlor***

**2:00pm Consistory – *Sunday School Room downstairs***

**Wednesday, 9/16: 7:00pm Choir - *Sanctuary***

**Thursday, 9/17: 2:00pm-4:00pm Book Study – *Gathering Area***

**Friday, 9/18: 9:30am Flutes – *Fellowship***

**Next Sunday 9/20: Come to Church, Stay for Brunch**

**following the 9:30am worship service.**

**12:00pm – 4:00pm Heritage Festival - *Gettysburg Rec Park***

**Worship Participants**

**Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young**

**Pastor**

**Jen Mickelson**

**Liturgist**

**Sara Shank**

**Organist/Choir Director**

**Mark Luckenbaugh**

**Percussionist**

**Mary Jane & Harry Hilbert**

**Greeters**

**Ushers**

**Acolyte**

**Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young,**

**Tech Team**

**George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Suhua Dong, Nina Redding, Cindy Kidd,**

**Terry Krietz, Bette Bunce, Chris Swinn**

## Crown with Your Richest Crowns

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Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874  
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993

1. Crown with your rich-est crowns  
the Lamb up-on the throne;  
Hark! how the heaven-ly an-them drowns  
all mu-sic but its own.  
A-wake, my soul, and sing  
of Christ who died for you,  
And to your ris-en Sav-ior bring  
your thanks for life made new.
2. Crown Christ whose love has flowed  
down hands and feet and side.  
Look past the peak of Cal-vary's road  
to Christ the glo-ri-fied.  
The sun that lights the sky  
is pale be-fore that sight.  
At prayer we glimpse then turn  
the eye from mys-ter-ies so bright.
3. Crown Christ the truth, the life  
who tri-umphed o'er the grave  
And rose vic-to-rious in the strife,  
this fal-len world to save.  
Christ's glo-ries now we sing,  
Christ's name we mag-ni-fy,

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1.    There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy,  
      like the wide-ness of the sea;  
      there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,  
      which is more than lib-er-ty.  
      There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows  
      are more felt than in God's heaven;  
      there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings  
      have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
  
2.    For the love of God is broad-er  
      than the mea-sures of our minds;  
      and the heart of the E-ter-nal  
      is most won-der-ful-ly kind.  
      If our love were but more faith-ful,  
      we would glad-ly trust God's word;  
      and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing  
      for the good-ness of our God.

# 531

## God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.

1. God, speak to me, that I may speak  
in liv-ing ech-oes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek  
your err-ing chil-dren lost and lone.
2. O lead me, God, that I may lead  
some wan-der-ers a-long life's way;  
O feed me so that I may feed  
your hun-gry ones with-out de-lay.
3. O fill me with your full-ness, God,  
your ov-er-flow-ing love to know;  
In glow-ing word and kin-dling thought,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.
4. O use me, God, use ev-en me  
just as you will, and when, and where,  
un-til your bless-ed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glo-ry share.