

Trinity United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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October 8, 2023

10:45 AM

*If you are a guest, thank you for worshipping with us today. We invite you and all present to sign the pew pads located at the end of each pew. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary or at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the sanctuary. Please note, all doors to the building will be open until 11:00 AM. After that time, please use the handicap door in the narthex. We welcome infants and children and all their giggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. Nursery care (infant through 2nd grade) is also provided, should you desire it. ***Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Processional on Trumpet Tune on cwm Rhondda"

Music by Wayne Wold

(Guide Me O My Great Redeemer) Copyright ©2015, Birnamwood Publication;

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***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

L: As we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship—

P: We bring the joys and burdens of the week.

L: We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

P: We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions.

L: We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.

P: We bring all this to each other and to God, whom we worship today.

Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this
barren land; I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing
waters flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield, ever be my strength and shield.

When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious
fears subside. Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on heaven's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you, I will ever sing to you.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION
PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

All: How quick we are to say yes to you, O Lord, and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment. We really want to serve, but we are very weak and are easily drawn away by cares and fears. We pledge ourselves to working for your kingdom but find ourselves pulled this way and that by other demands on our time and energy. Forgive us, O Lord, when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving you. Heal our spirits and give us the bold courage to truly be your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PRAISE RESPONSE

"First Song of Isaiah"

FWS# 2030

Words from *The Book of Common Prayer*,

Canticle 9 (Isa.12:2-6)

Music: Jack Noble White

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**Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in God and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold
and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.**

***LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND PRAYER FOR PEACE**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The Christ in me greets the Christ in you.

All: *The Christ in me greets the Christ in you also.*

FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:23-32

One: God is still speaking!

All: *Thanks be to God.*

MESSAGE

ANTHEM

"Faithfulness"

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm,

Music by Joel Raney

Words Copyright © 1923, Hope Publishing Co.

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JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins/sin against)
All: Our Father, (Creator, Mother, Friend), 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP & GENEROSITY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Meditation on "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*"

Music by John S. Dixon
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*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "*As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*"

FWS #2237
Words: Ruth Duck
Music from: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844
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We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way. We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay. By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light. In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“How Great Thou Art”

Arr. by Fred Bock
Organists' Choice
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References

¹ The Call to Worship was written by Rev. Beth Merrill Neel and published on her website, <https://holdfasttowhatgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/> and accessed on September 26, 2023.

² Free Accompaniment on first hymn; God of Grace and God of Glory; Acc. By Janet Linker; The last verse Copyright ©1992 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Used by Permission One License#735873-A

³ The Prayer of Confession was written by Nancy C. Townley and published on the website, *Ministry Matters* and accessed on September 26, 2023.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Danielle Neff, Pastor
Caleb Murray, Director of Faith Formation & Programming
Carol Ann Day, Organist
Gillian Austin, Director of Music
Kristen Adams, Communications Coordinator
John Mentzer, Custodian
Kim Lark, Secretary

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Media Team: Karen Adams, Hal Bitner, Mark Hollen,
Nick Mowen, Andrew Mowen, Joe Thompson

Usher Team: Molly Adams*, Ben Adams, Charlie Clark,
Bill and Sharon Rinker

Children's Sermon: Caleb Murray

Lay Reader: Sarie Dickey

Acolyte: Ray Schlotterbeck

The flowers on the altar are to celebrate Emma Hamilton's 13th birthday and PRIDE.

OUR MISSION

Because of our love of God, who first loved us, we empower disciples to let their lights shine through love of neighbor, love of children, and love of creation.

OUR VISION

As Jesus modeled first for us, we are working to create a just world where all are welcomed, all are loved, and all are included.

OUR PURPOSE

Celebrating the Christ in all of us by joyfully serving our community.